Victory Sports Series

October 1979

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# Wrestling

## 1979 ANNUAL

## IVAN PUTSKI: "DEATH TO TRAITORS LIKE MAIVIA!"

## HARLEY RACE (NWA Champion) VS. TED DiBIASE (WWF North American Champion)

## THE MOST CRUCIAL MATCH THIS YEAR!

## The Experts Decide: GREATNESS IN THE SQUARED CIRCLE

## CAN BOB BACKLUND SURVIVE ANOTHER MATCH AGAINST GREG VALENTINE?

0 71896 47952 10

# when I planned to **retire before**

## this is the business that made it possible

## Starting with borrowed money, in just eight years I gained financial security, sold out at a profit and retired.

"Not until I was forty did I make up my mind that I was going to retire before ten years had passed. I knew I couldn't do it on a salary, no matter how good. I knew I couldn't do it working for others. It was perfectly obvious to me that I had to start a business of my own. But that posed a problem. What kind of business? Most of my money was tied up. Temporarily I was broke. But, when I found the business I wanted I was able to start it for a small amount of borrowed money.

"To pyramid this investment into retirement in less than ten years seems like magic, but in my opinion any man in good health who has the same ambition and drive that motivated me, could achieve such a goal. Let me give you a little history.

"I finished high school at the age of 18 and got a job as a shipping clerk. My next job was butchering at a plant that processed boneless beef. Couldn't see much future there. Next, I got a job as a Greyhound Bus Driver. The money was good. The work was pleasant, but I couldn't see it as leading to retirement. Finally I took the plunge and went into business for myself.

"I managed to raise enough money with my savings to invest in a combination motel, restaurant, grocery, and service station. It didn't take long to get my eyes opened. In order to keep that business going my wife and I worked from dawn to dusk, 20 hours a day, seven days a week. Putting in all those hours didn't match my idea of independence and it gave me no time for my favorite sport—golf! Finally we both agreed that I should look for something else.

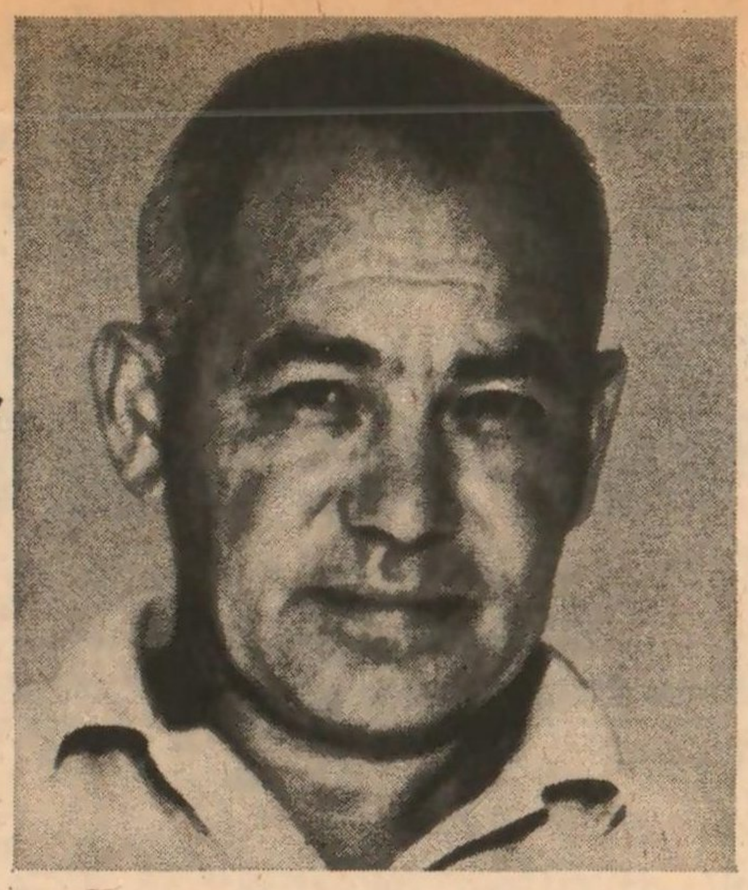
"I found it. Not right away. I investigated a lot of businesses offered as franchises. I felt that I wanted the guidance of an experienced company—wanted to have the benefit of the plans that had brought success to others, plus the benefit of running my own business under an established name that had national recognition.

"Most of the franchises offered were too costly for me. Temporarily all my capital was frozen in the motel. But I found that the Duraclean franchise offered me exactly what I had been looking for.

"I could start for a small amount. (Today, only $1985 starts a Duraclean dealership, and the company will finance the balance of the total $5900 cost, without interest or finance charges.) I could work it as a one-man business to start, and operate from my home. No office or shop or other overhead, no salaries to pay. Equipment would fit in my car trunk. (I bought the truck later, out of profits). Best of all, there was no ceiling on my earnings. I could build a business as big

# fifty

a true story
by John B. Haikey



as my ambition and energy dictated. I could put on as many men as I needed to cover any volume. I could make a profit on every man working for me. And I could build little by little, or as fast as I wished.

"So, I started. I took the wonderful training furnished by the company. When I was ready I followed the simple plan outlined in the training. During the first period I did all the service work myself. By doing it myself, I could make much more per hour than I had ever made on a salary. Later, I would hire men, train them, pay them well, and still make an hourly profit on their time that made my idea of retirement possible —I had joined the country club and now I could play golf whenever I wished.

"What is this wonderful business? It's Duraclean. And what is Duraclean? It's an improved, space-age process for cleaning upholstered furniture, rugs and tacked down carpets. It not only cleans but it enlivens and sparkles up the colors. It does not wear down the fiber or drive dirt into the base of the rug as machine scrubbing does. Instead it *lifts out* the dirt by means of an absorbent dry foam.

"Furniture dealers and department stores refer their customers to the Duraclean Specialist. Insurance men say Duraclean can save them money on fire claims. Hotels, motels, specialty shops and big stores make annual contracts for keeping their carpets and furniture fresh and clean. One Duraclean Specialist signed a contract for over $40,000 a year for just one hotel.

"Well, that's the business I was able to start with such a small investment. That's the business I built up over a period of eight years. And, that's the business I sold out at a substantial profit before I was fifty."

Would you like to taste the freedom and independence enjoyed by Mr. Haikey? You can. Let us send you the facts. Mail the coupon, and you'll receive all the details, absolutely without obligation. No salesman will ever call on you. When you receive our illustrated booklet, you'll learn how we show you STEP BY STEP how to get customers; and how to have your customers get you more customers from their recommendations.

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# Wrestling
## ANNUAL

## CONTENTS/OCTOBER 1979


6 **OFFICIAL WRESTLING RATINGS**
See where YOUR favorites rank this month!

8 **BONUS PINUP #1**
The menaceful Sonny King

10 **READER REPORT**
The column YOU get to write

12 **BONUS PINUP #2**
Blackjack Lanza!

14 **WONDERFUL WORLD OF PEN PALS**
Isn't it time YOU joined the fun?

18 **BONUS PINUP #3**
The dynamic and talented Jimmy Snuka

20 **GREATNESS IN THE SQUARED CIRCLE**
Our experts offer their selections

38 **CAN BOB BACKLUND SURVIVE ANOTHER MATCH AGAINST GREG VALENTINE?**
The young champ is racked by mental turmoil

40 **HARLEY RACE VS. TED DiBIASE**
The most crucial match this year!

43 **IVAN PUTSKI: "DEATH TO TRAITORS LIKE PETER MAIVIA!"**
Polish Power's personal war of vengeance



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# We teach your 10 fingers to make beautiful music

**Free booklets reveal the secret of teaching yourself to play the guitar, the piano, or spinet organ—*the "right" way.***

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# OFFICIAL WRESTLING RATINGS

## WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

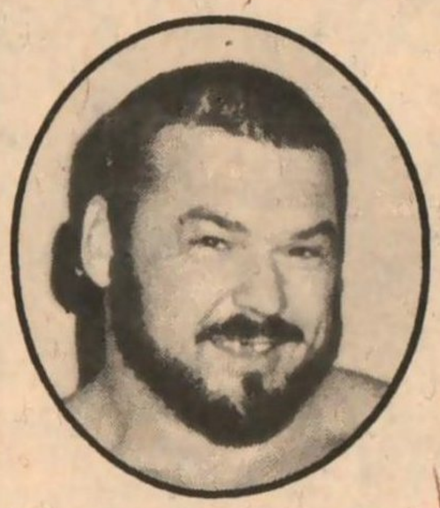
Champion: BOB BACKLUND
1—BULLDOG BROWER
2—GREG VALENTINE
3—HOSSIEN ARAB
4—IVAN PUTSKI
5—TED DIBIASE
6—PETER MAIVIA
7—IVAN KOLOFF
8—VICTOR RIVERA
9—STEVE TRAVIS
10—FRED CURRY

## AMERICAN WRESTLING ASSOCIATION

Champion: NICK BOCKWINKEL
1—BILLY ROBINSON
2—VERNE GAGNE
3—JIM BRUNZELL
4—GREG GAGNE
5—RAY STEVENS
6—PAT PATTERSON
7—SUPER DESTROYER II
8—MIGHTY IGOR
9—LARRY HENNIG
10—BOBBY DUNCUM

## MOST POPULAR

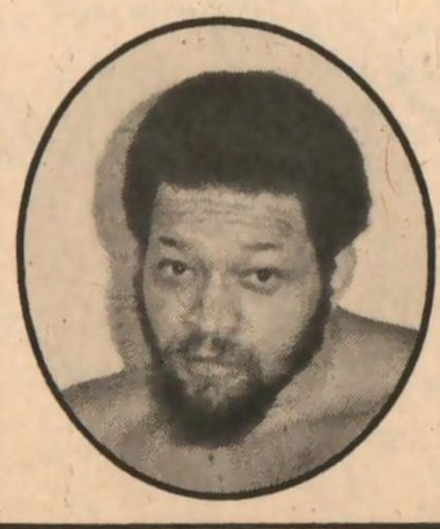
1—DUSTY RHODES
2—ANDRE THE GIANT
3—RICK STEAMBOAT
4—MR. WRESTLING II
5—IVAN PUTSKI
6—BILLY ROBINSON
7—MIL MASCARAS
8—BOB BACKLUND
9—JIM GARVIN
10—DAVID VON ERICH



IVAN PUTSKI

MASKED SUPERSTAR

RAY STEVENS



ERNIE LADD

## NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE

Champion: HARLEY RACE
1—DUSTY RHODES
2—RIC FLAIR
3—MR. WRESTLING II
4—MASKED SUPERSTAR
5—DICK MURDOCH
6—JIM GARVIN
7—RICK STEAMBOAT
8—MIKE GRAHAM
9—KEN PATERA
10—JERRY STUBBS

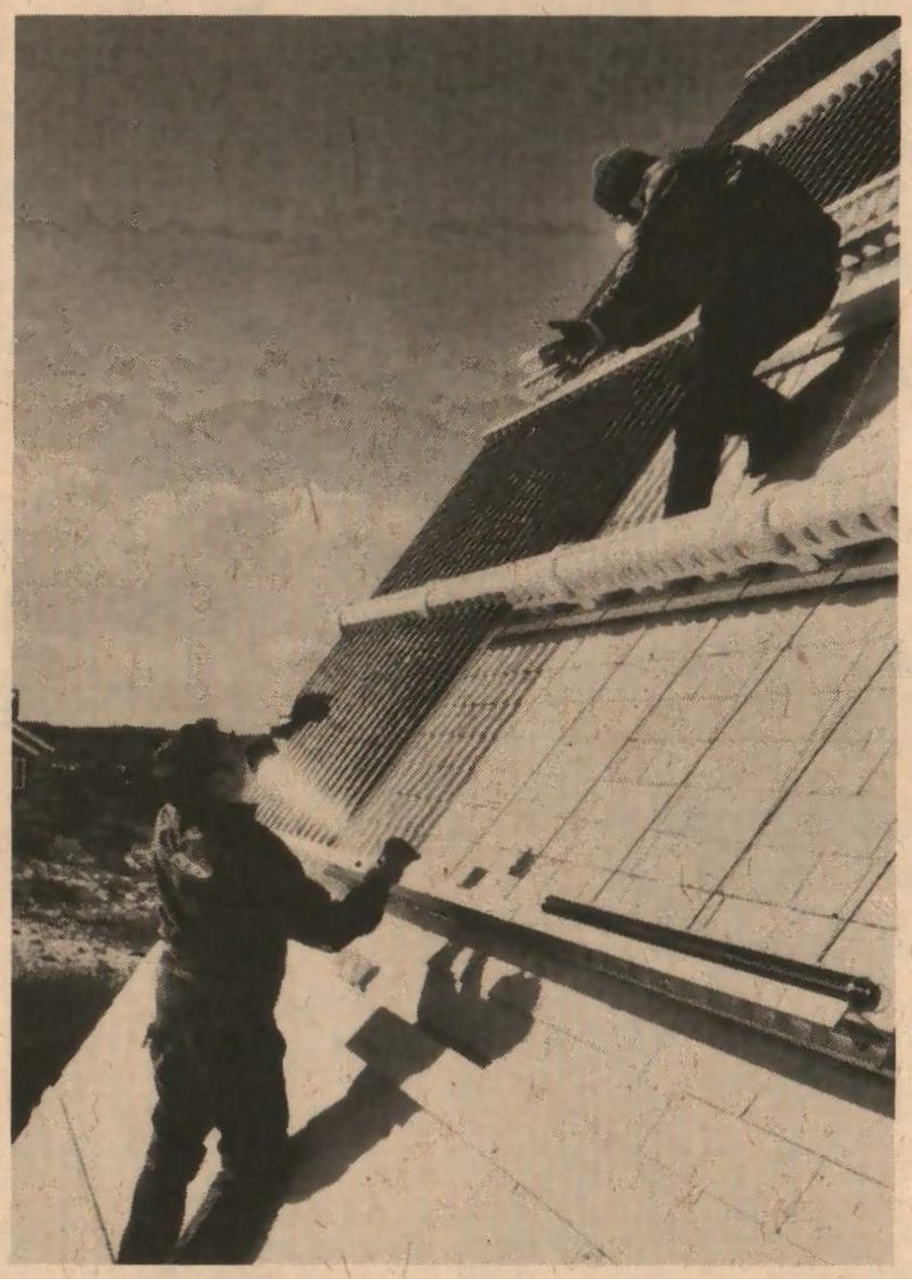
## TAG TEAMS

1—THE VALIANT BROTHERS
2—PAUL ORNDORFF & JIMMY SNUKA
3—RAY STEVENS & PAT PATTERSON
4—KEN PATERA & JOHN STUDD
5—OLE ANDERSON & IVAN KOLOFF
6—THOR THE VIKING & BUGSY MCGRAW
7—MIKE LEWIN & THE SPOILER
8—MIKE GRAHAM & STEVE KEIRN
9—EDDY MANSFIELD & LEROY BROWN
10—JERRY LAWLER & ROBERT FULLER

## MOST HATED

1—GREG VALENTINE
2—PAUL JONES
3—BULLDOG BROWER
4—PETER MAIVIA
5—KEN PATERA
6—HARLEY RACE
7—NICK BOCKWINKEL
8—ERNIE LADD
9—MASKED SUPERSTAR
10—BUGSY MCGRAW

# Get into the booming field of solar technology.



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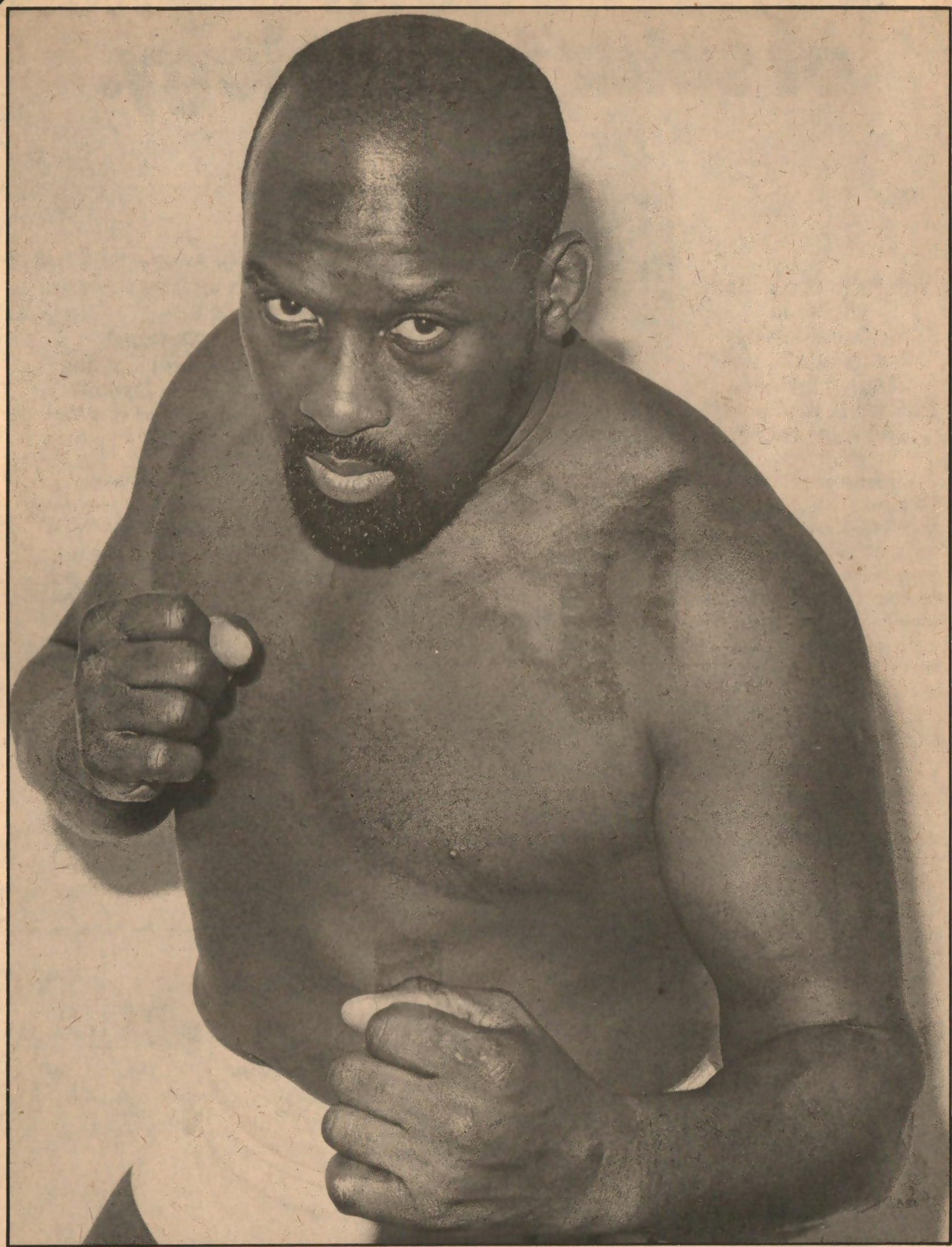

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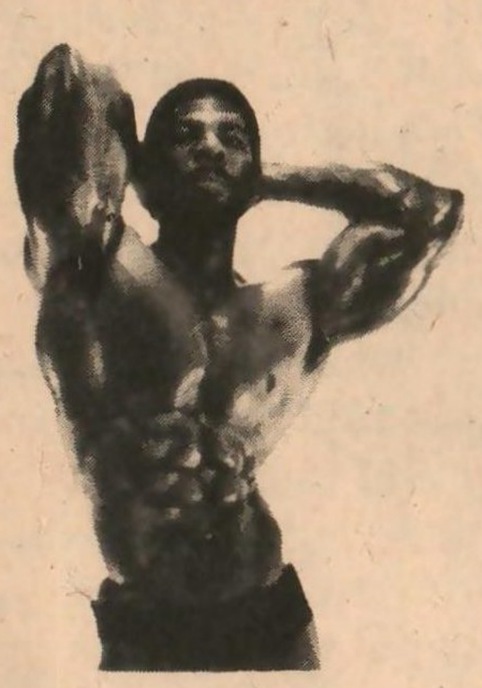

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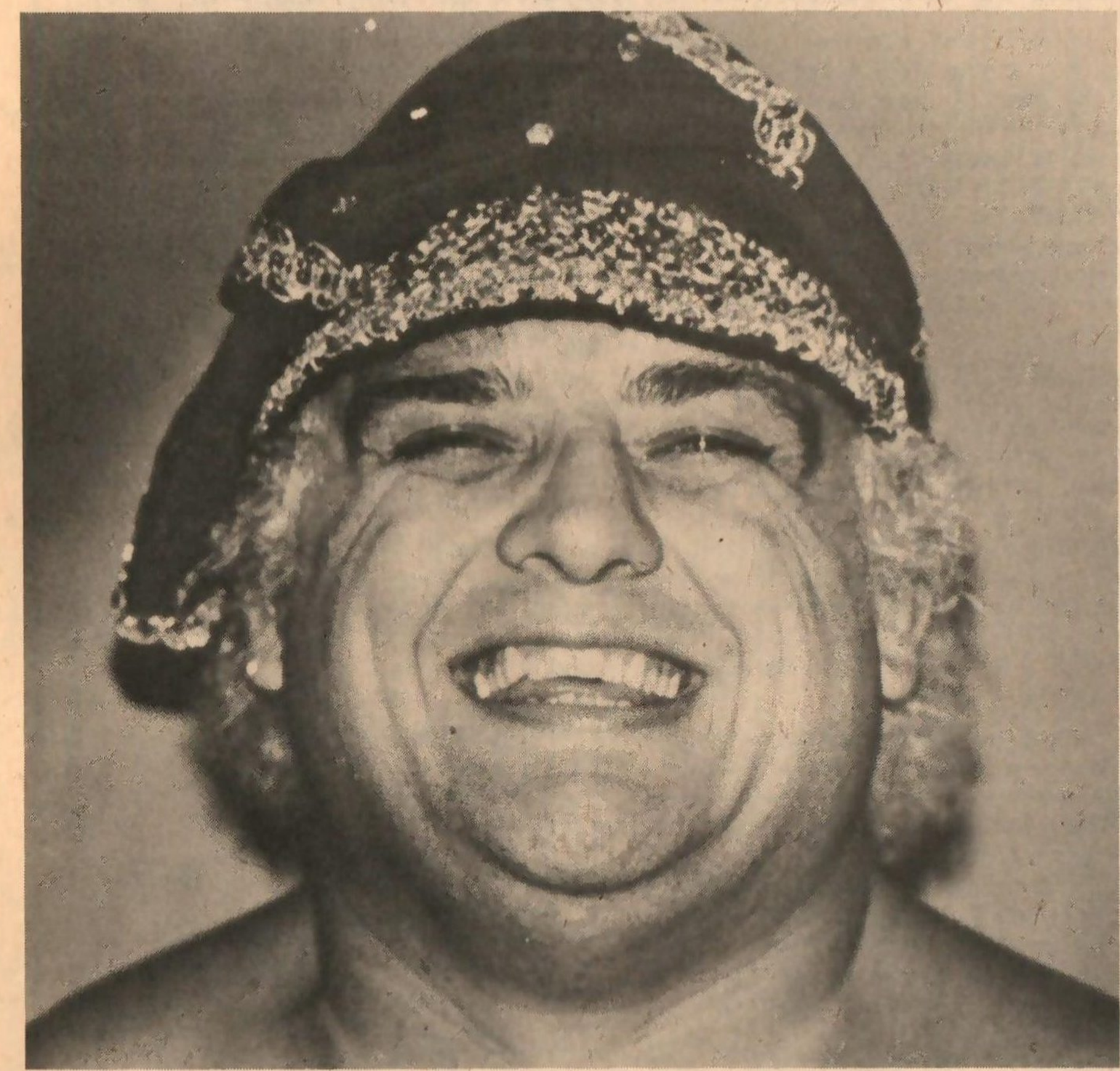
SEND LETTERS TO:

# Reader Report

BOX 48, ROCKVILLE CENTRE, N.Y. 11571

Oscar Orfuss believes Chief Jay Strongbow is justified in his hatred for his former friend, Peter Maivia.



Dusty Rhodes is all smiles. His dream is to challenge "The Greatest," Muhammad Ali, in a match. Our readers are split on whether Dusty should actually climb into the ring with the world's heavyweight champion.

**DUSTY MUST BE JOKING**

Is Dusty Rhodes serious? Does he really think he belongs in the same ring with the great Muhammad Ali? I read your story in the Summer 1979 Annual ("Dusty Rhodes: The Dream's Dream") and I laughed till I cried. Ali would rip blubber-face apart, whether in a wrestling, boxing or combination match. Tell Dusty to stick to his sport. His feet would fit into Ali's shoes like a guitar pick fits into a tuba.

DEAN JACKSON
Chicago, Ill.

**DUSTY IS SERIOUS**

I say Amen to Dusty Rhodes' challenge to Muhammad Ali. I sincerely believe that Dusty is the only man on the planet who could teach Ali a lesson. If "The American Dream" gets his powerful hands on the heavyweight champ, Ali will be forced to publically apologize for ever taking the match. Give it up, Muhammad. You're outclassed against Dusty.

MARCY KULMAN
Frankfurt, Ky.

**STRONGBOW IS JUSTIFIED**

Chief Jay Strongbow is completely justified in the way he feels about his former friend, Peter Maivia. Jay should have no second thoughts. What Maivia did turned my insides out. Thus I can only imagine what his change to rulebreaker did to his close friends like Jay and Bob Backlund. With maniacs like Maivia and Greg Valentine around loose, great humanitarians like Strongbow have to suffer. It makes you wonder about justice.

OSCAR ORFUSS
New Crilinton, Conn.

*(Continued on page 48)*

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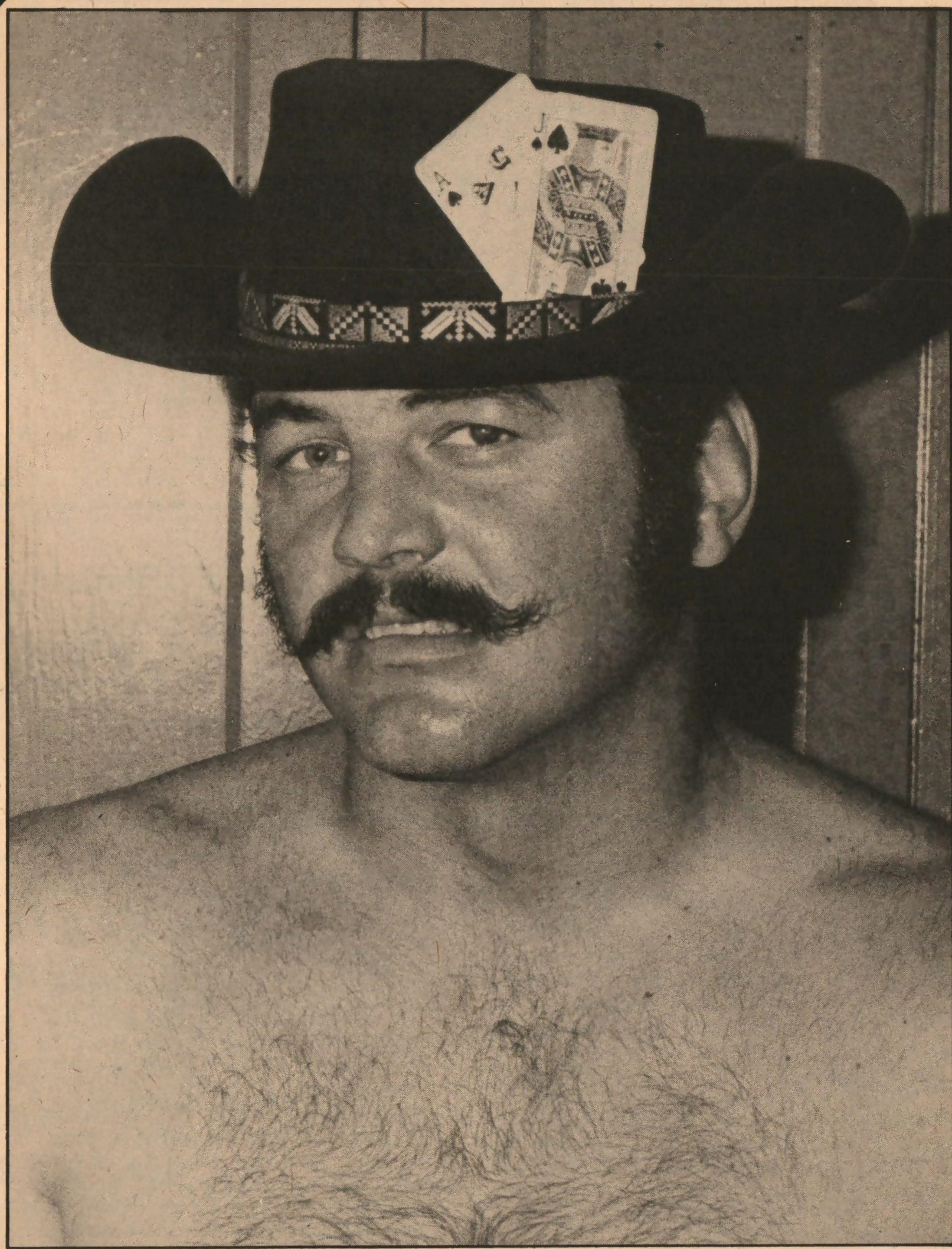

BLACKJACK LANZA

Now—enjoy a life of unbelievable riches, lasting love and constant protection with the secrets in this startling WITCH BOOK—

# THE MAGIC POWER OF WITCHCRAFT

**Whatever it is you need or want, Witchcraft can get it for you quickly, easily, and automatically, say these experts. You'll discover how it can bring abundant and overflowing wealth, find or bring back a lover, ward off evil influences, and much more—step-by-step in plain English, with complete easy-to-follow instructions!**

Yes . . . Witchcraft! Every time you hear the word it brings with it the feelings of deep occult secrets—secrets that you would like to know so that your life can be better; so that your enemies will stop bothering you; so that serenity, love, power and comfort can be yours!

THE MAGIC POWER OF WITCHCRAFT lays bare these secrets for the first time! Do you want a bank account bursting at the seams with money? A love life that would make a sultan envious? Supreme power to crush your enemies and reward your friends? What would it be worth to you to utter a simple incantation that would cause any pain to vanish? Or say another, and immediately recover some lost object?

What would it be worth to you to fly through time and space, on astral wings, as Witches do . . . go wherever you wish . . . do whatever you wish . . . without being detected . . . watch the antics of others behind closed doors . . . hear private conversations . . . make time run forward or backward . . . read tomorrow's newspaper in a "black mirror" . . . find out what really happened in history . . . make your face old or young at will!

## BRINGS AUTOMATIC ASSURED SUCCESS!

Witchcraft can bring your heart's desire! You can use it to heal someone, influence the boss to give you that raise, or make someone stop bothering you! It's easy! The easiest thing in the world! You don't have to be wealthy or super-intelligent to get started! Thousands of ordinary people all over the world are using Witchcraft Power right now!

Witches have known for centuries that people are scared of them and their powers! And rightly so! NOW YOU CAN SHARE THE SAME POWER that gives you—literally—life and death control over other persons! Is someone bothering you? No problem at all, with Magic Witchcraft. For example, there is a spell called the "Cross Not My Path" ritual, for people who are having neighbor trouble. When you use it, you know you will never again have trouble with this neighbor!

With these amazing Witchcraft secrets, other people will look up to you—in awe—you'll automatically dazzle others with your power to make things happen at your will, you'll be Master of your destiny, and never have to apologize to anyone for anything!

Whatever you want or need, whatever frustration is bothering you, Witchcraft will help you. It is not evil—nor is it Black Magic. Like electricity, it is simply a power given by nature for the use of men, to make life easier.

You'll see how to get paid without working . . . how to get expensive clothes and furs FREE . . . how to get a first-class plane seat FREE . . . how to vacation at the finest hotels, motels, pools and pleasure palaces, start living like a millionaire as Witches do!

## AMAZING TECHNIQUE HAS HELPED THOUSANDS!

Witchcraft secrets like these can make you rich faster than anything else in the world! Here's how others have used them to make miracles happen in their daily lives!

### IN THIS WITCH BOOK YOU'LL DISCOVER . . .

- How to Cast Spells that Really Work!
- Your Magic Window on the World!
- Personal Protection!
- Telepathy Made Easy!
- Influencing Others to Do Your Bidding!
- Controlling a Conversation!
- The Technique of Silent Persuasion!
- Using Witchcraft to Find Friends!
- How to Find the Lover You Want!
- How to Bring Your Perfect Mate to You!
- How to Dominate Others!
- Witchcraft Power for Money!
- Withcraft Power to Make You Irresistible to Others!
- Spells for Finding Lost Objects!
- How to Always Win with Luck Spells!
- More Power for Bigger Goals!
- Inhaling Cosmic Energy!
- Recharging Your Cosmic Batteries!
- Raising Your Vital Energy Level!
- How to Keep Evil Forces Away!

You'll see how Vern, a man who likes to give a lot of expensive parties, was always short of cash until he discovered the amazing WITCH'S MONEY JAR—now all he has to do is dip in, for it brings him an endless flow of cash! Evelyn, a waitress, was always lending money to friends, and was always broke. Finally, she placed her last dollar on the table, and worked the MONEY MAGNET SPELL over it. All at once, dozens of people who had borrowed money from her, rushed to pay her back!

Hank was perpetually broke. One night he got together with some friends, and they decided to cast the MONEY SPELL. The very next day, Hank received in the mail a check for some $250 worth of insurance. (He had never heard of the company that sent the check, he was not insured with them, and had never even made a claim—but he accepted the money.) Another member of the group that used the spell, a 40-year-old secretary, received an automobile as a gift! All the other members of the group received amazing windfalls of money, as well! You'll see how Dexter, a retiree, lives RENT FREE *and* receives $200 a week at the age of 78, with a secret you'll find in this Witch Book! You'll see how Claudine, a secretary, was able to wear the finest, most expensive furs—FREE—and spend weekends at an expensive ski lodge in the mountains, where she met a wonderful man! How Ruth L., a widow—with nothing but a small pension, and a little savings—received her dream house, by using a simple 5-minute ritual on page 38 of this book!

Using the same Witchcraft secrets, YOU can achieve peace of mind and freedom from money worries for the rest of your life!

## YOU CAN HEAL YOURSELF AS WITCHES DO!

Feeling sick today? Plagued by a lot of troublesome illnesses? Perhaps some relative is sick and constantly demanding your attention? Or perhaps it is even a pet that needs help? With the MAGIC POWER OF WITCHCRAFT, you can cure anything, say authors Gavin and Yvonne Frost: "In our experience . . . we have not found a single incurable disease!"

• **ANDY DISSOLVES A GALLSTONE!**—Andy M. developed gallstones. When his illness became too troublesome to ignore, he went to a doctor. Urine tests revealed that he was chronically alkaline. His body was badly out of balance. Using this Witchcraft method to restore balance to the mind and body—in a short while, X-rays showed that he had no more gallstones! Andy never again suffered the excruciating pain of passing stones!

In the same way, say Gavin and Yvonne Frost, almost all illness can be prevented. You are actually employing an ancient Witchcraft method to remove diseased tissue! Even if you do not have any belief in the results, the power will work for you!

One woman, who had been in a wheelchair for 26 years, due to polio and arthritis, used the Witchcraft healing method, and reported that she had no pain and could walk and garden again! A man reported that his son's deep 3rd degree burns miraculously healed overnight!

• **SO SIMPLE A CHILD USES IT!**—A 4-year-old girl asked if she could try to heal a man who was limping—due to a torn ligament—with this simple Witchcraft healing method. In a matter of moments, she started her chant, laying her hands on the weak ankle. The man was miraculously cured! To skeptics, this should be convincing PROOF that anyone can use it!

## AMAZING POWER CAN BE YOURS!

Whether you want infinite wealth, or just a comfortable new home, financial security, fine possessions, love, companionship, new health and vigor, power to control others, secret knowledge, protection from evil, or anything else, the magic power of Witchcraft can bring it to you quickly, easily and automatically! It's the easiest thing in the world!

• **HOW TO SEE INTO THE FUTURE!**—Would you like to be able to see the future? You CAN with the magic Black Mirror you'll see how to make on page 23. All you need is some ink and a bowl of water. Then use the chant on this page, and you will be able to see many things. One man uses it to read tomorrow's newspaper. YOU can use it to check the stock market or that important horse race!

• **MAKE TIME RUN BACKWARD OR FORWARD!**—A Witch uses ancient methods to make time stand still or to run it backward or forward! To make your face look young or old at will, all you need is some morning dew, and the instructions on page 27. You can fly through time and space, on astral wings, go anywhere, do anything, with the simple method on page 126. You can visit a friend, look in on an acquaintance and see what he is doing—even appear in someone's dreams, and convince that person to do whatever you wish!

• **SECRETS OF SILENT PERSUASION!**—There is a magic handshake that Witches often use, revealed on page 62. With this secret, you can implant a thought in someone's mind! You can use this Witchcraft power to dominate others! Control your boss! Make someone love you! Leave your enemies groveling in the dust! There is even a gazing technique Witches use on page 45, for identical thoughts. With this secret, you can read your friend's mind and share his or her identical thoughts!

### Now! Let This Amazing Witch Book Bring You INFINITE WEALTH, FINE POSSESSIONS, A COMFORTABLE NEW HOME, FINANCIAL SECURITY, LOVE, CONTROL OVER OTHERS, And More—Easily And Automatically!

For centuries, these Witchcraft secrets were hushed up, so that those in power could stay in power! Feudal lords kept their bondsmen as slaves. Factory owners kept their employees in dreaded sweatshops, because these masters knew they must not allow their workers to realize that they need not labor their lives away. Witchcraft was suppressed because it works! Not because of any "evil" in it. If it hadn't worked, no one would have worried about it. If you want to gain power, all you need is this amazing Witch Book!

By using these Witchcraft secrets, you too can change your life and gain health, wealth, someone to love—or anything else—surely, swiftly and automatically!

• **THE WITCH'S MONEY JAR!**—You'll discover the secret of the Witch's Money Jar, a mysterious jar that fills with money—whenever you want or need it! All you need is some water, pennies, and an ordinary jar or bowl! You'll be amazed at the speed with which it fills with money—a seemingly endless supply of needed cash!

• **THE WITCH'S MONEY MAGNET!**—You'll see how to magnetize a dollar bill so that it multiples! All you need to make your own Witch's Money Magnet is a dollar bill, a green candle, and the words on page 38. Once you do this, your dollar will double and keep doubling! You'll enjoy glittering luxuries, and start living like a millionaire, as Witches do!

• **THE WITCH'S BLACK MIRROR!**—Just as your TV set has been called your "window on the world," so the Black Mirror is your "window on the psychic world"—the world of the unknown. Making your own personal Black Mirror takes only a few moments and can open the way to unguessable visions. All you need is a bowl of water, some ink, and the chant on page 23. Suddenly you will see scenes from other places and times, or any scene you wish to see!

## MEET THE AUTHORS

**GAVIN FROST, B.Sc., Ph.D., D.D.,** is Archbishop of the Church of Wicca, New Bern, North Carolina with national headquarters in Salem, Missouri, branches in several states and worldwide membership. He is Marshal of the Gold Star of England, with the right to wear the Saffron Robe and one of the very few Witches in the Western Hemisphere privileged to wear the authentic mark of initiation on his wrist. Although descended from a long line of mystics and scholars, and formerly a Vice-President and Director of International Operations for major aerospace companies, he prefers to be thought of as a humble teacher.

**Mrs. YVONNE FROST, A.A., D.D.,** with her husband Gavin Frost, devotes her time to giving private instruction and publishing *Survival*, the newsletter of the Church of Wicca, of which she is a Bishop.

Articles by or about Gavin and Yvonne Frost have appeared in such national publications as *Midnight* and the *National Enquirer*.

## FREE . . . The Witches Protection Amulet For Just Examining The Witch Book . . .

When you receive your copy of THE MAGIC POWER OF WITCHCRAFT, we will send you the witches protection pentagon medallion (See p. 26) that will protect you from evil. Whether you keep the book or not, this handsome, powerful amulet is yours as a gift. So send in this no-risk coupon right now!

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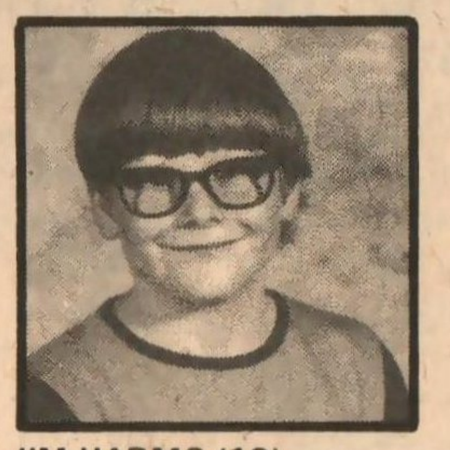
**ANGIE CARTER (11)**
305 Bath St.
Clifton Forge, VA 24422
Enjoys tennis. Ivan Putski her favorite. Likes good guys. Anyone for pen pals.



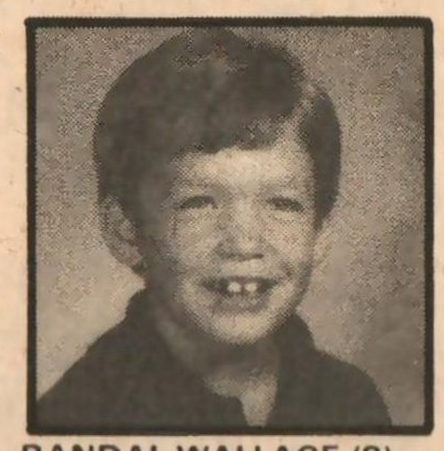
**JIM HARMS (10)**
1228 Manchester
Newton, KS 67114
Likes baseball. Mr. Wrestling II his favorite. Likes good guys. Anyone for PP's.

**DEAN CRAIG (18)**
33 Saunders Rd. Box 411
McAdam, N.B. CANADA
Builds models. Leaping Lannie his favorite. Likes good guys. Girls for pen pals.

**DONNIE HISCOCKS (11)**
RR 1
Britt, IA 50423
Enjoys baseball. Mil Mascaras his favorite. Likes good and bad guys. Anyone for PP's.

**MICHAEL HENSLEY (10)**
Box 430 Lynn Ave.
Corbin, KY 40701
Enjoys basketball. Ron Garvin his favorite. Likes good guys. Boys for pen pals.

**VICKI WILLIS (22)**
711 S. Maple St.
Lancaster, OH 43130
Likes to dance. John Valiant her favorite. Likes good and bad guys. Anyone for PP's.



**RANDAL WALLACE (8)**
309 67th Ave. N
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577
Likes to swim. Ric Flair his favorite. Likes good and bad guys. Anyone for PP's.

**WAYNE OAKS (10)**
Woods Road
Knoxville, TN 37721
Enjoys baseball. Robert Fuller his favorite. Likes good and bad guys. Anyone for PP's.

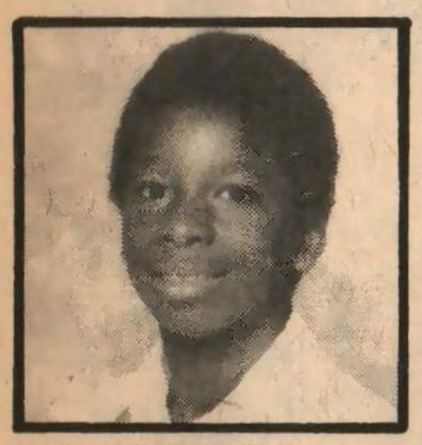
**TODD FORT (12)**
1028 W. Barnett St.
Harrisburg, IL 62946
Enjoys sports. Andre the Giant his favorite. Likes good guys. Anyone for pen pals.

**JANET OWENS (13)**
Route 2 Box 225
Pilot, Mtn., NC 27041
Enjoys basketball. Rick Steamboat her favorite. Likes good guys. Anyone for pen pals.

**BRIAN TATE (14)**
1959 San Luis Rey
Fenton, MO 63026
Likes bikes. Ric flair his favorite. Likes good and bad guys. Girls for PP's.

**DORIS GORDON (11)**
Route 5 Box 457B
Sumter, SC 29150
Rides bikes. Rick Steamboat her favorite. Likes good guys. Girls for pen pals.

# N PALS



**CARL FOSTER (16)**
1562 Drew Dr. #840
Atlanta, GA 30318
Enjoys drawing. Stan Hansen his favorite. Likes good guys. Girls for pen pals.

**BUDDY ROBERTS (7)**
200 N. Congress St.
Summerville, GA 30747
Collects magazines. Mr. Wrestling II his favorite. Likes good guys. Boys for pen pals.

**LISA JOHNSON (15)**
Route 3 Box 304
Morristown, TN 37814
Likes football. Ron Fuller her favorite. Likes good guys. Anyone for pen pals.

**HAYWARD BURROUGHS (7)**
123 E. Newberry
Sumter, SC 29150
Likes sports. Bobo Brazil his favorite. Likes good guys. Boys for pen pals.

**TIMMY GARDNER (12)**
Route 3 Box 195
Newland, NC 28657
Likes to read. Billy Graham his favorite. Likes good and bad guys. Anyone for PP's.

**ROBERT HANSON (11)**
1260 S. Cobb Dr. Lot 2
Marietta, GA 30060
Enjoys baseball. Mr. Wrestling II his favorite. Likes good guys. Girls for pen pals.

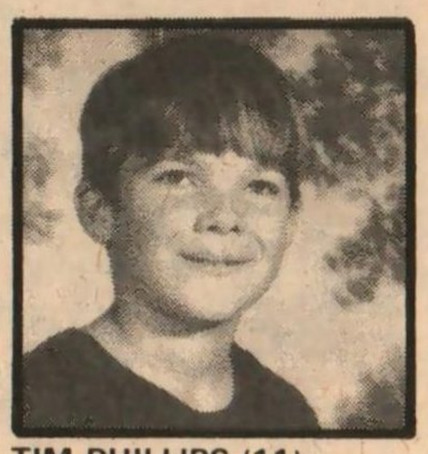
**DAVID WILLIS (11)**
711 S. Maple St.
Lancaster, OH 43130
Likes to fish. Dick the Bruiser his favorite. Likes good guys. Anyone for pen pals.

**SCOTT FESTA (14)**
225 Kaufman
Pittsburgh, PA 15227
Enjoys fishing. Bob Backlund his favorite. Likes good guys. Girls for pen pals.

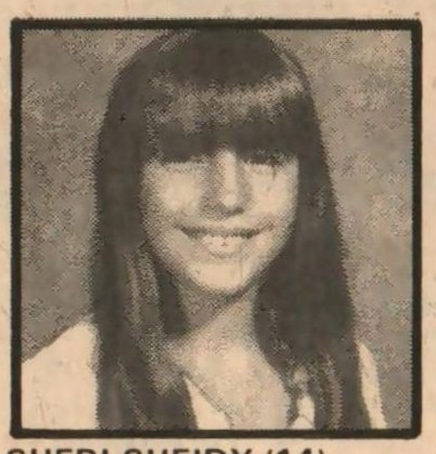
**CRAIG CORRIGAN (12)**
Route 5 Box 292
Millidgeville, GA 31061
Likes baseball. Billy Graham his favorite. Likes bad guys. Anyone for pen pals.

**ART CHILLCOTT (9)**
235 Cresthaven Dr.
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
Likes baseball. Dusty Rhodes his favorite. Likes bad guys. Anyone for pen pals.

**JEFF HAINEY (16)**
504 Mills St.
Hinsdale, IL 60521
Likes tennis. Baron Von Raschke his favorite. Likes good and bad guys. Girls for PP's.



**TIM PHILLIPS (11)**
Rt. 2 Box385E
Big Stone Gap, VA 24219
Plays football. Bob Armstrong his favorite. Likes good guys. Anyone for pen pals.



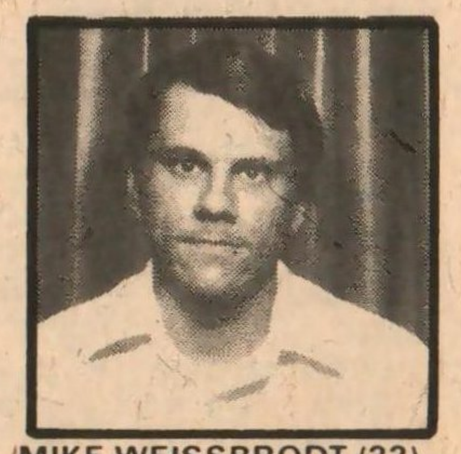
**SHERI SHEIDY (14)**
B-10 George Allen
Key West, FL 33040
Enjoys roller skating. Dusty Rhodes her favorite. Likes good and bad guys. Anyone for pen pals.

**DEBBIE THIGPEN (13)**
11 Sheralyn Place
Hampton, VA 23666
Likes bowling. Tony Atlas her favorite. Likes good guys. Anyone for pen pals.

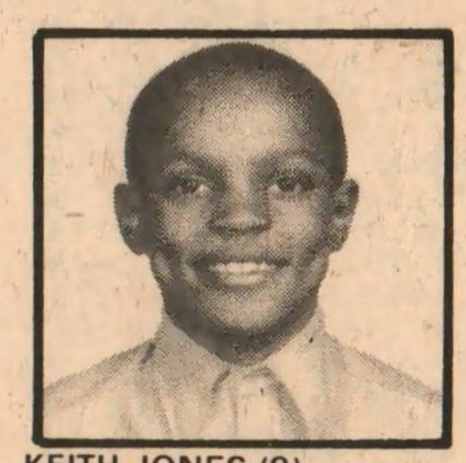
**RICHARD HICK (11)**
1501 Larkin St.
San Francisco, CA 94109
Likes sports. Mil Mascaras his favorite. Likes good guys. Anyone for pen pals.

**SONIA LOIO (12)**
119 Konahau Lane
Wailuku, HI 96793
Likes volleyball. Mr. Wrestling II her favorite. Likes good guys. Girls for pen pals.

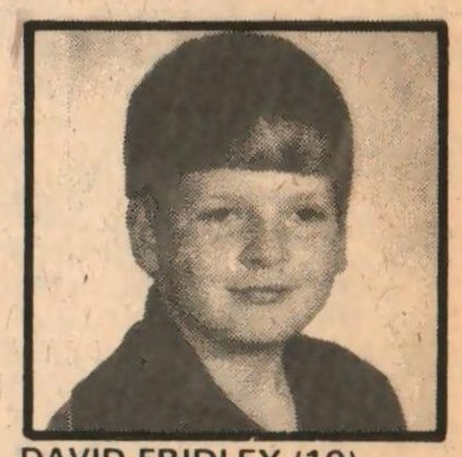
**RICARDO GONZALEZ (13)**
597 Summer Ave.
Newark, NJ 07104
Collects stamps. Bob Backlund his favorite. Likes good guys. Anyone for pen pals.



**MIKE WEISSBRODT (22)**
9907 W. Margaret La.
Franklin, WI 53132
Enjoys sports. Rufus R. Jones his favorite. Likes good guys. Girls for pen pals.



**KEITH JONES (9)**
18 Stockman Place
Irvington, NJ 07111
Likes basketball. Dusty Rhodes his favorite. Likes good guys. Anyone for pen pals.



**DAVID FRIDLEY (10)**
2398 Highview Cir.
Staunton, VA 24401
Likes to read. Dick Murdoch his favorite. Likes good guys. Anyone for pen pals.

# BACK ISSUES OF THE WRESTLER

## THE WRESTLER

- ☐ FEB/72
- ☐ AUG/72
- ☐ SEPT/72
- ☐ OCT/72
- ☐ JULY/73
- ☐ AUG/73
- ☐ MAR/74
- ☐ APRIL/74
- ☐ MAY/74
- ☐ JUNE/74
- ☐ JULY/74
- ☐ AUG/74
- ☐ SEPT/74
- ☐ NOV/74
- ☐ DEC/74
- ☐ JAN/75
- ☐ FEB/75
- ☐ APRIL/75
- ☐ MAY/75
- ☐ JUNE/75
- ☐ JULY/75
- ☐ AUG/75
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- ☐ OCT/75
- ☐ NOV/75
- ☐ DEC/75
- ☐ JAN/76
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- ☐ FEB/79
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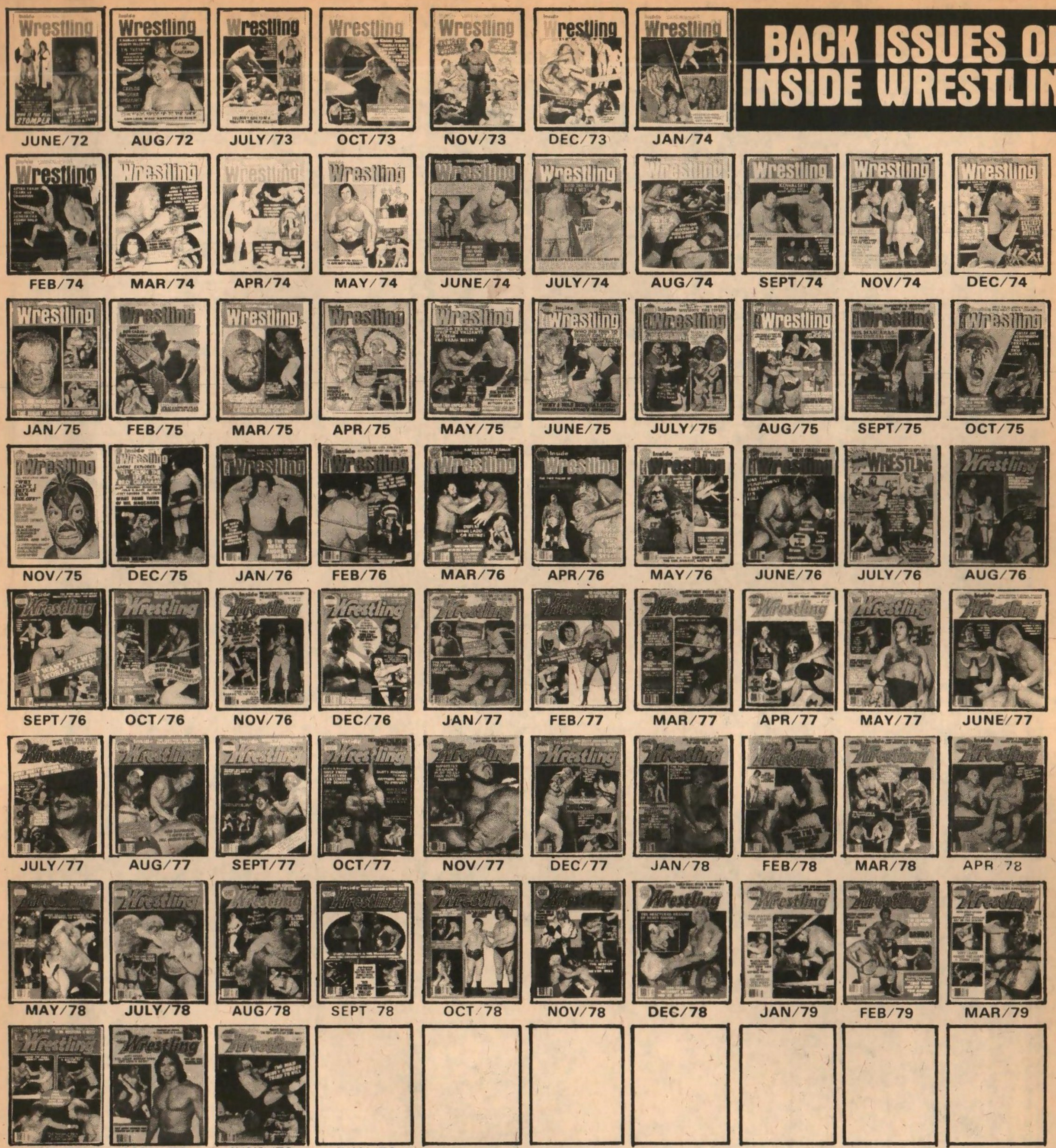


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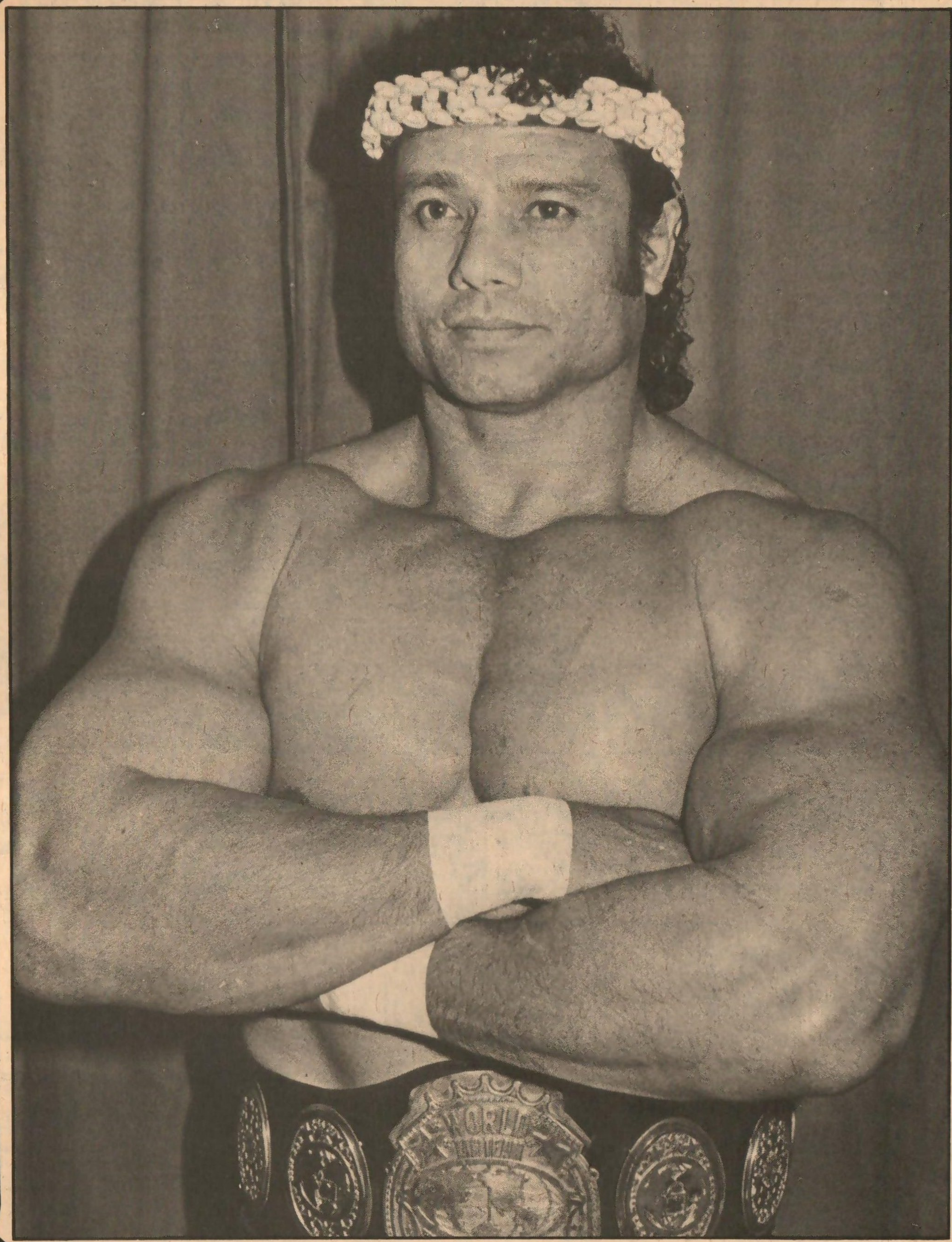

## JIMMY SNUKA

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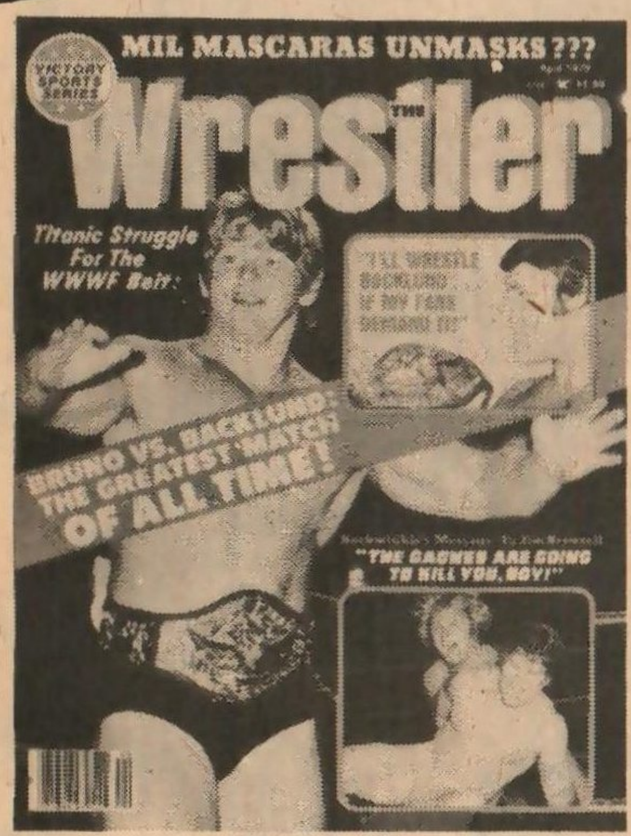


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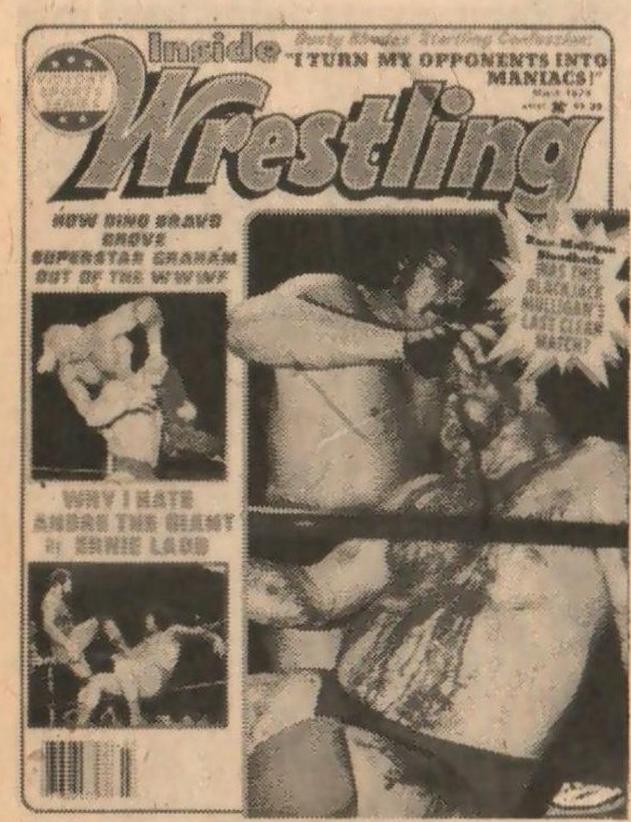


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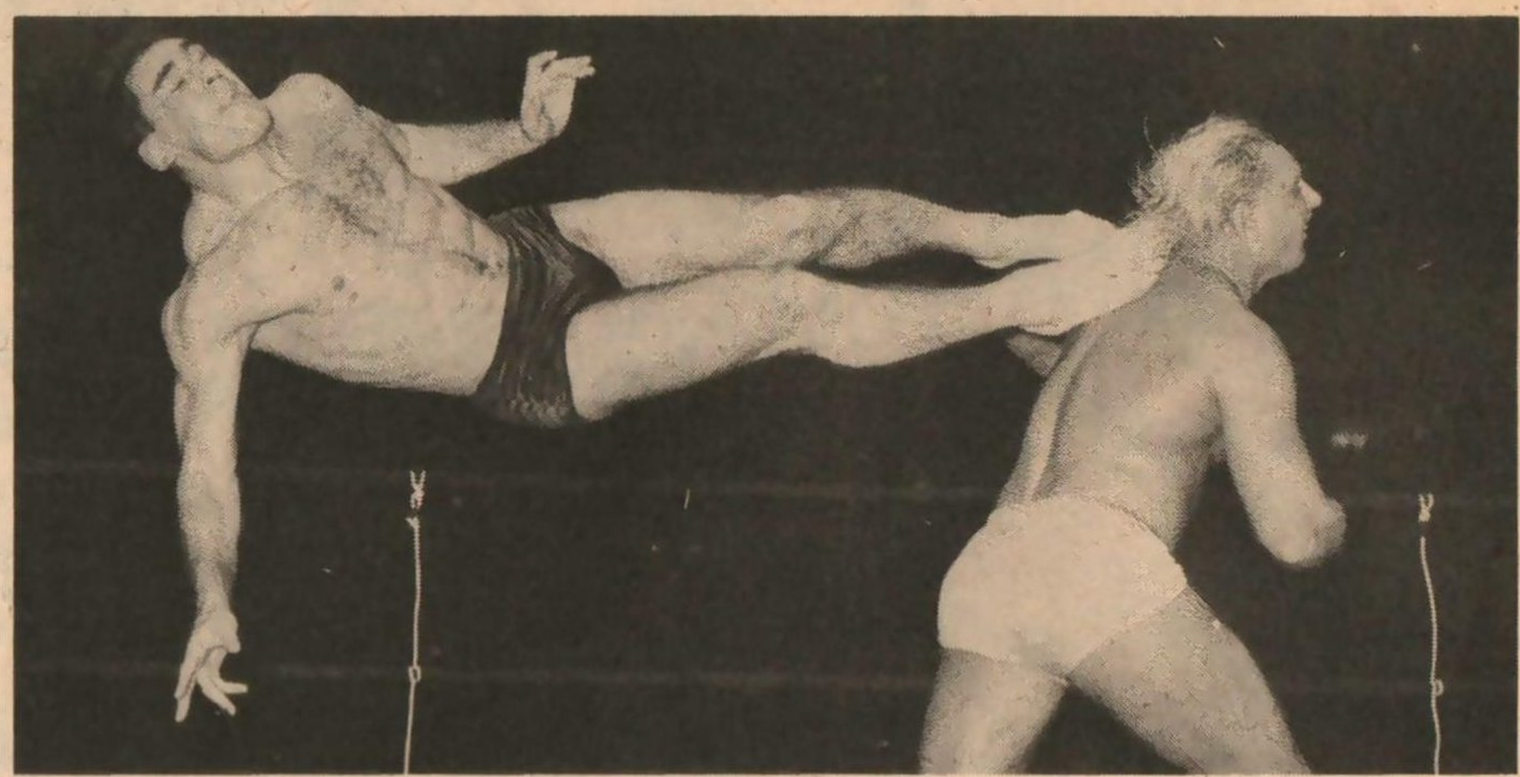
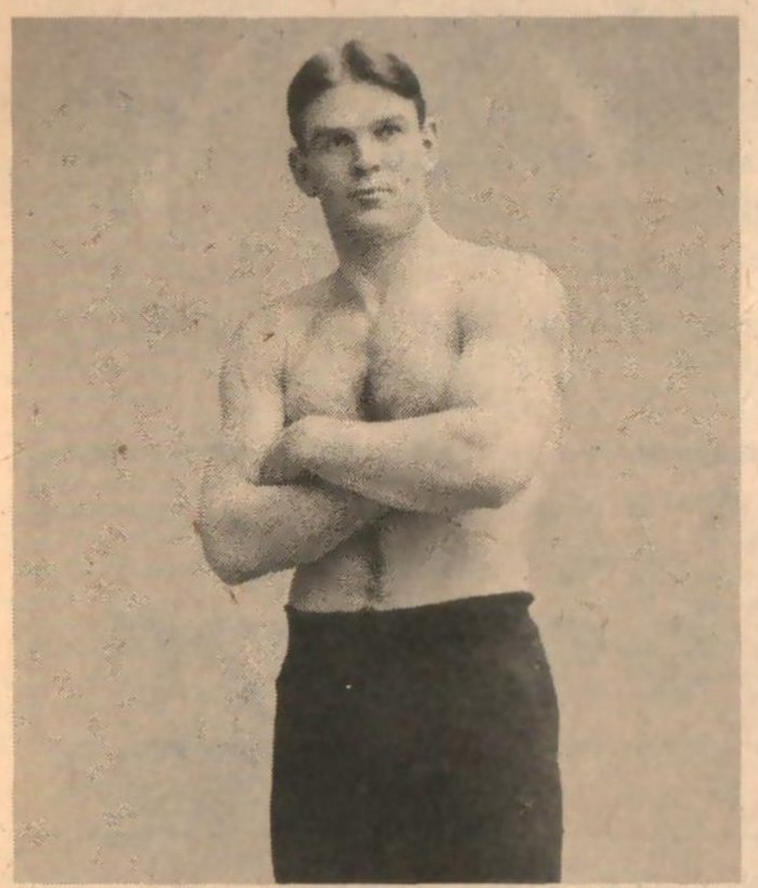


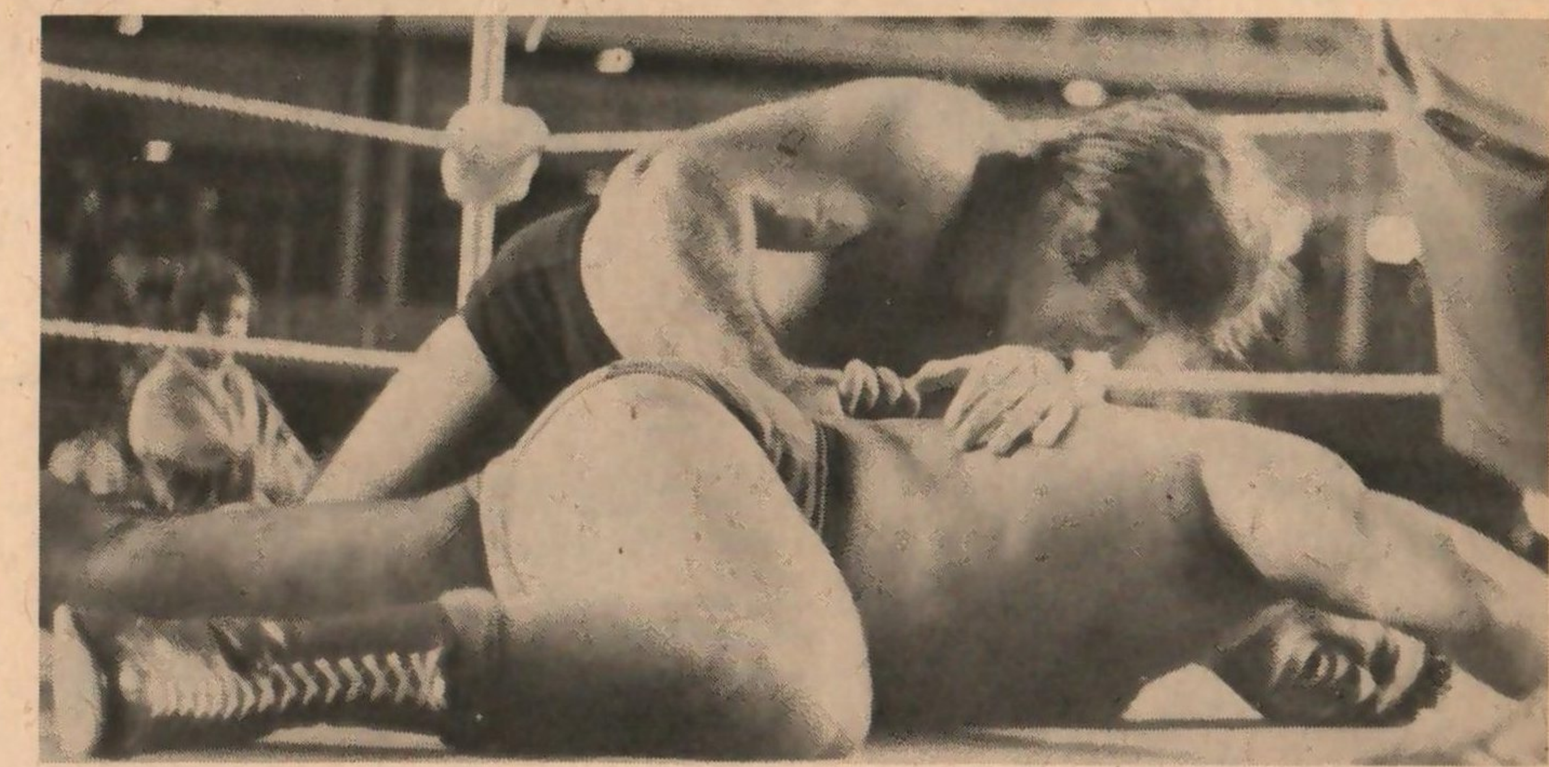
The great Antonino Rocca demonstrates his unforgettable flying dropkick to a retreating Buddy Rogers (right).

# GREATNESS I
# SQUARED CI



Frank Gotch was the first professional wrestling champion (above). Lou Albano is a powerful force today (right).

**Frank Gotch became the world's first professional wrestling champion. WRESTLING ANNUAL is extremely honored to have been chosen to select the greatest moments, matches and people in our illustrious sport over the past 75 years**



Two of the Valiant Brothers (Johnny and Jimmy—above left), considered the finest tag team in modern-day wrestling. The Valiant Brothers are managed by Lou Albano. They have recently added a third grappler, brother Jerry, to the clan. In a memorable match, Bruno Sammartino challenges Pedro Morales (above).

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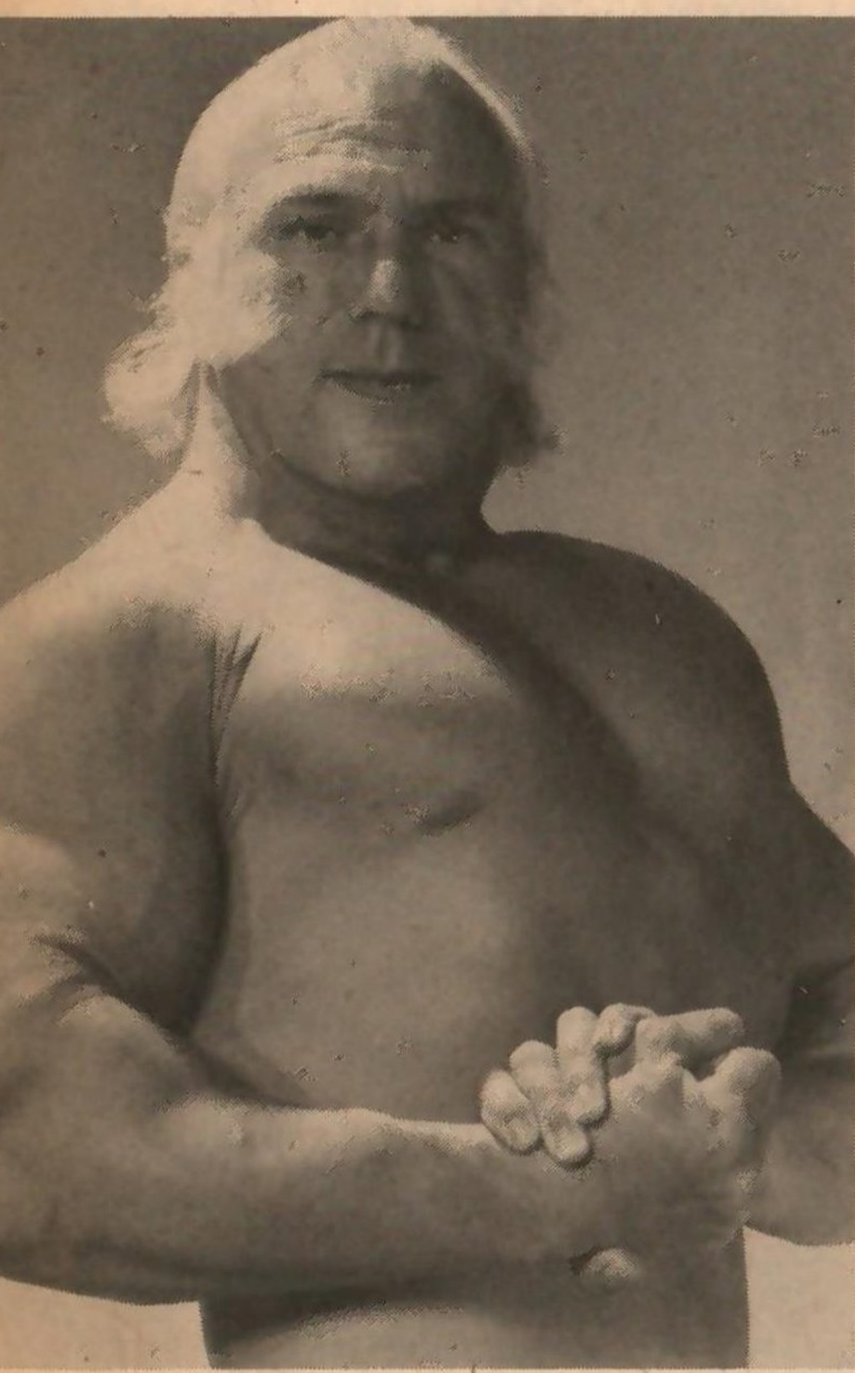


The overpowering physique symbolizes the unique qualities possessed by a controversial superstar, Billy Graham (above).

ON JANUARY 27, 1904, Frank Gotch became the the first world wrestling champion by defeating Tom Jenkins. In observance of modern wrestling's 75th year, promoters and wrestlers throughout the world have asked the editors of this magazine for their choices of "Greatness in the Squared Circle." It is an honor for this magazine to have been given so prestigious a job. We believe our choices, though sure to cause controversy, have met the high standards an illustrious undertaking of this kind would call for.

We give you our opinions on what constitutes the truly great stars and moments in wrestling. Every member of our staff is involved in this worthy pursuit.

Managing Editor Bill Apter provides a moving insight into the multi-faceted personality of Antonino Rocca.

Our polarities, Randy Gordon and Dan Shocket, offer perspectives on the greatest scientific wrestler, Verne Gagne, and rule-breaker, Superstar Billy Graham.

The scintillating Valiant Brothers are the subjects of Peter King's scrutiny concerning the greatest tag team.

Only someone with the idealism and enthusiasm of Steve Farhood could probe the bizarre man that is manager Captain Lou Albano.

Traveling man Gary Morgenstein pauses long enough to recall his emotions on the historic night when Bruno Sammartino and Pedro Morales wrestled in Shea Stadium.

And venerable Matt Brock, a man who has seen it all, reveals the greatest year in wrestling history.

Here they are, the experts and their opinions. □

GREATEST WRESTLER

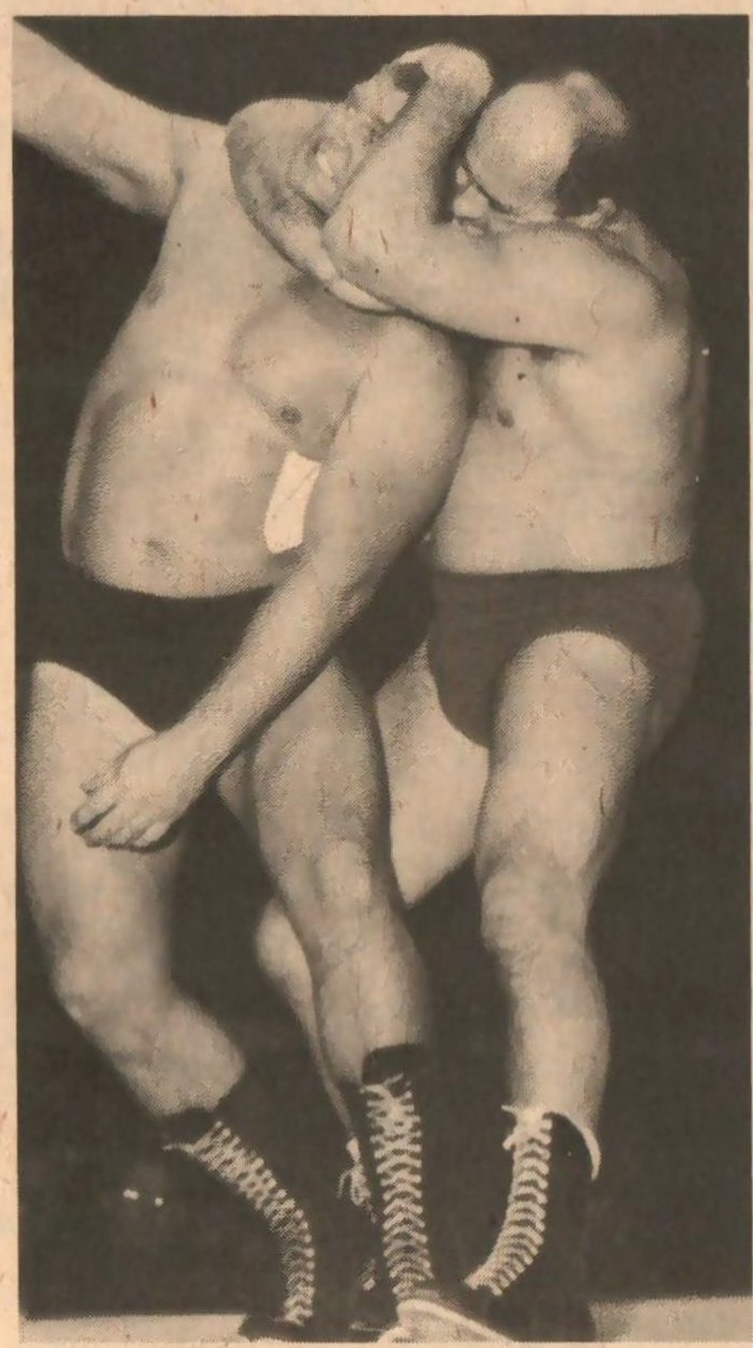
# VERNE GAGNE

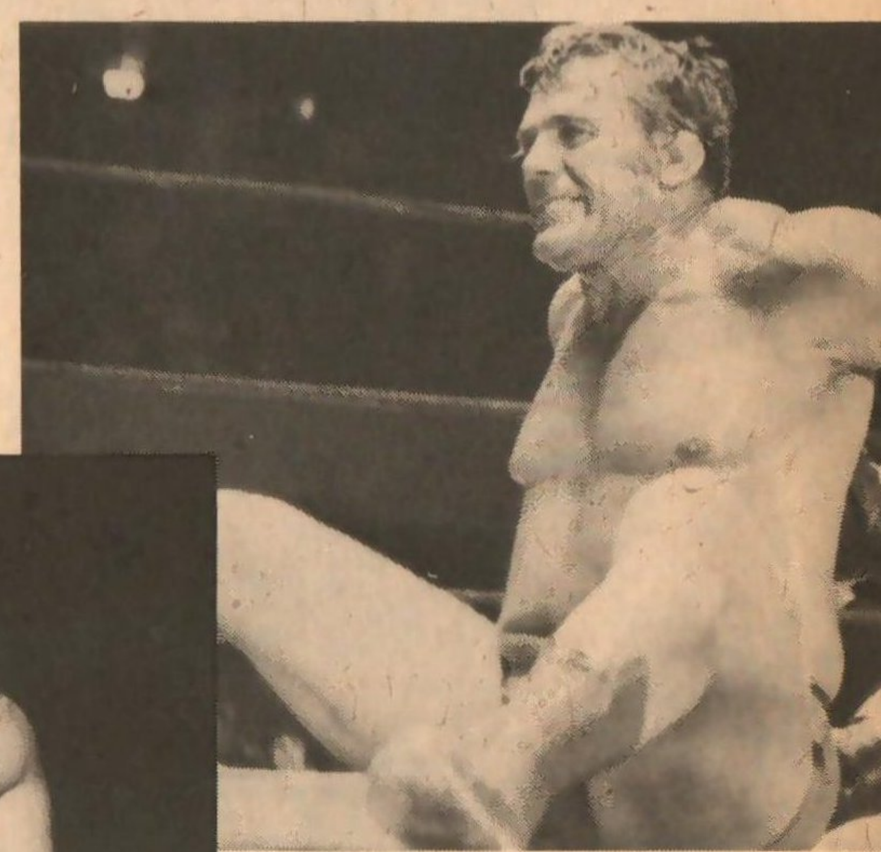
HE IS THE epitome of greatness, both inside and outside the arena. He is a model for all youngsters to follow. He helped mold professional wrestling into the great sport it is today. He *is* wrestling. He is Verne Gagne.

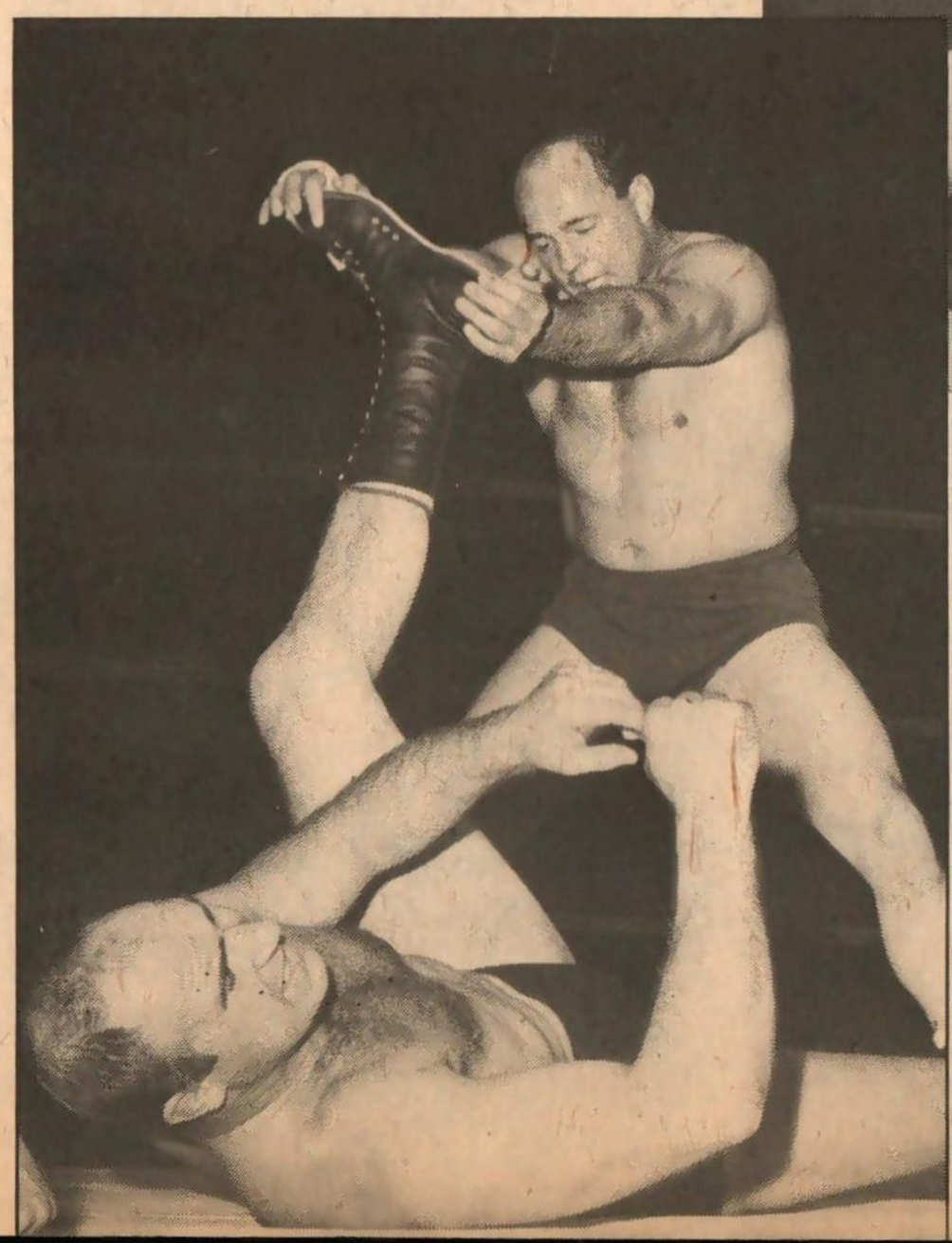
It seems like only hours ago I sat in front of my television set, watching professional wrestling for the first time. I'll never forget the first man I saw wrestle. His name was Verne Gagne. His opponent's name escapes me, though it doesn't really matter. What does matter is the impression Verne Gagne burned into me that night. I remember being so thoroughly awed by Gagne that I didn't stop talking about him for days. I became an overnight aficionado on the sport. Wrestling became my "thing." Gagne became my hero.

There were nights in high school when I was out with my buddies, all of whom I turned into Verne Gagne fanatics. No matter what we were doing, no matter who we were with, everything came to a halt when wrestling was on television. None of us could stand the thought of missing Verne Gagne.

"Macho" was invented by Gagne. It oozed from his every pore. The man exuded class. He was sportsmanship



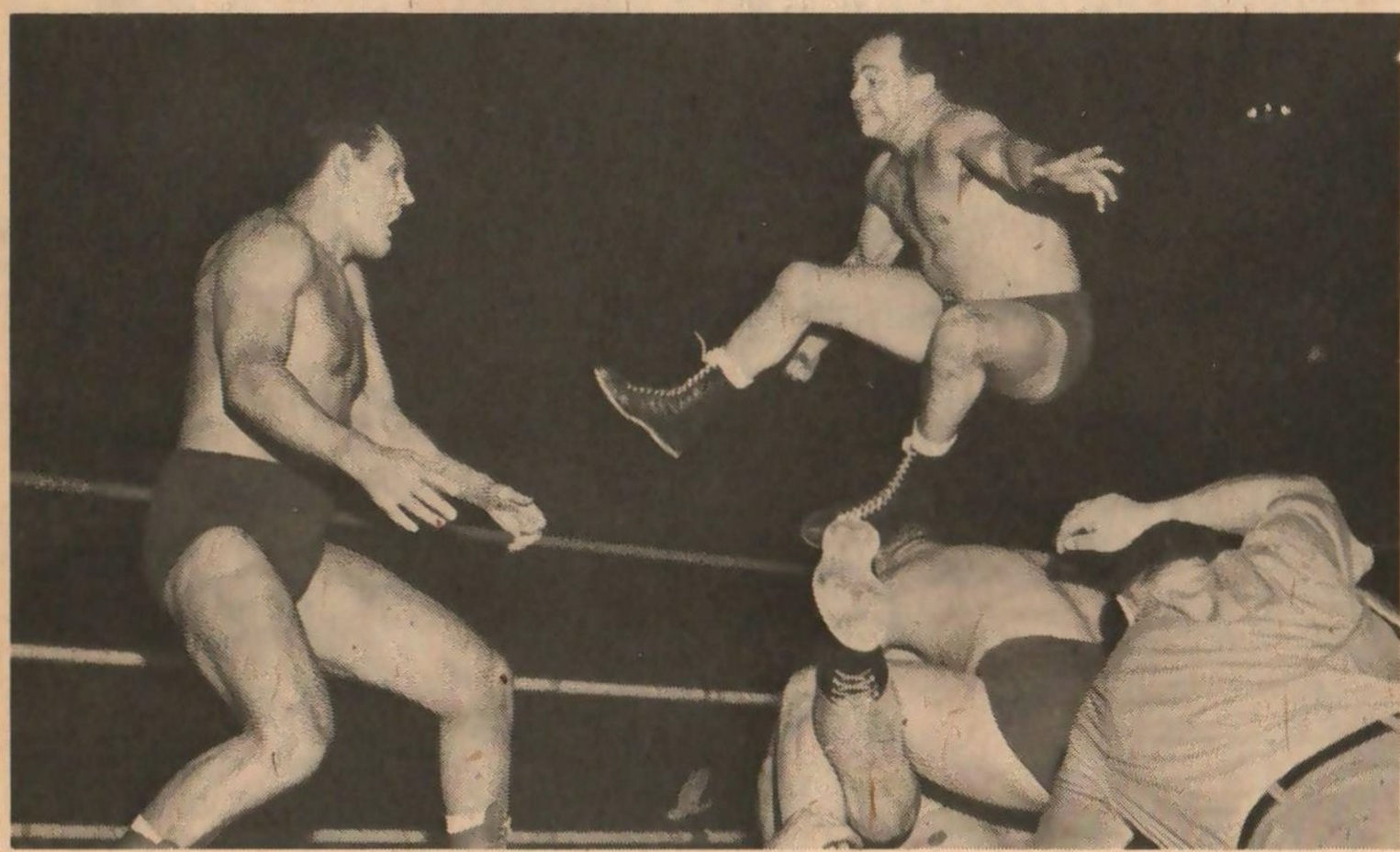


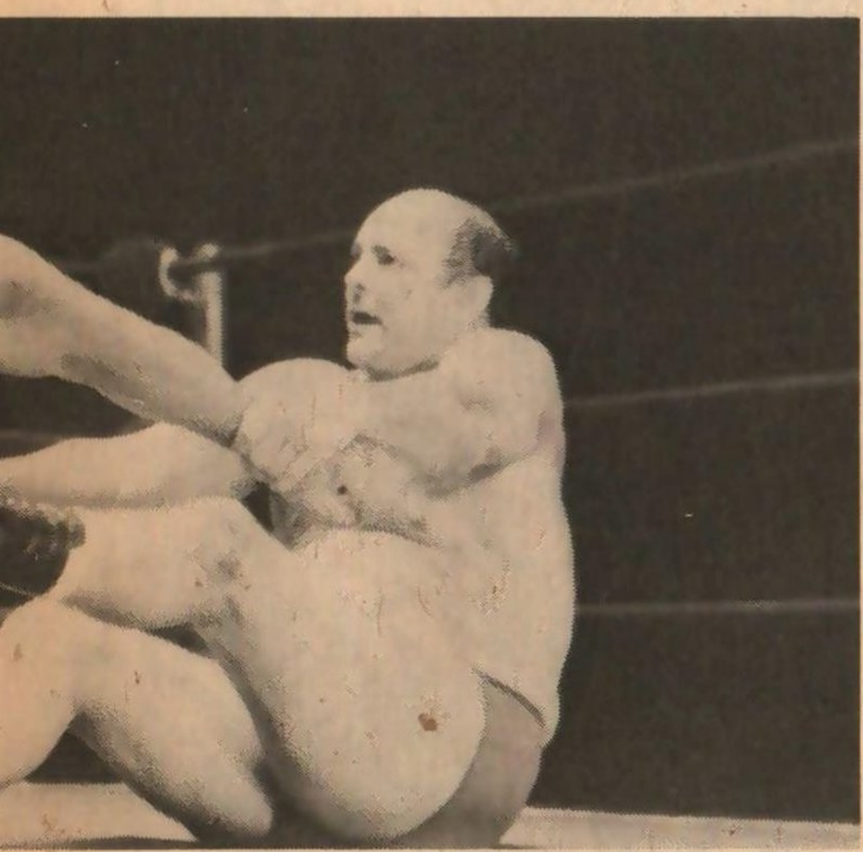


Gagne works on the leg of Hans Schmidt (left). Verne battles scientific star Ed Carpentier (above). Gagne has had trouble with occasional tag team partner Billy Robinson (top). A long-time Gagne rival is rulebreaker Crusher Lisowski (top left). Gagne is a former AWA titleholder. He lost his belt to current champ Nick Bockwinkel.

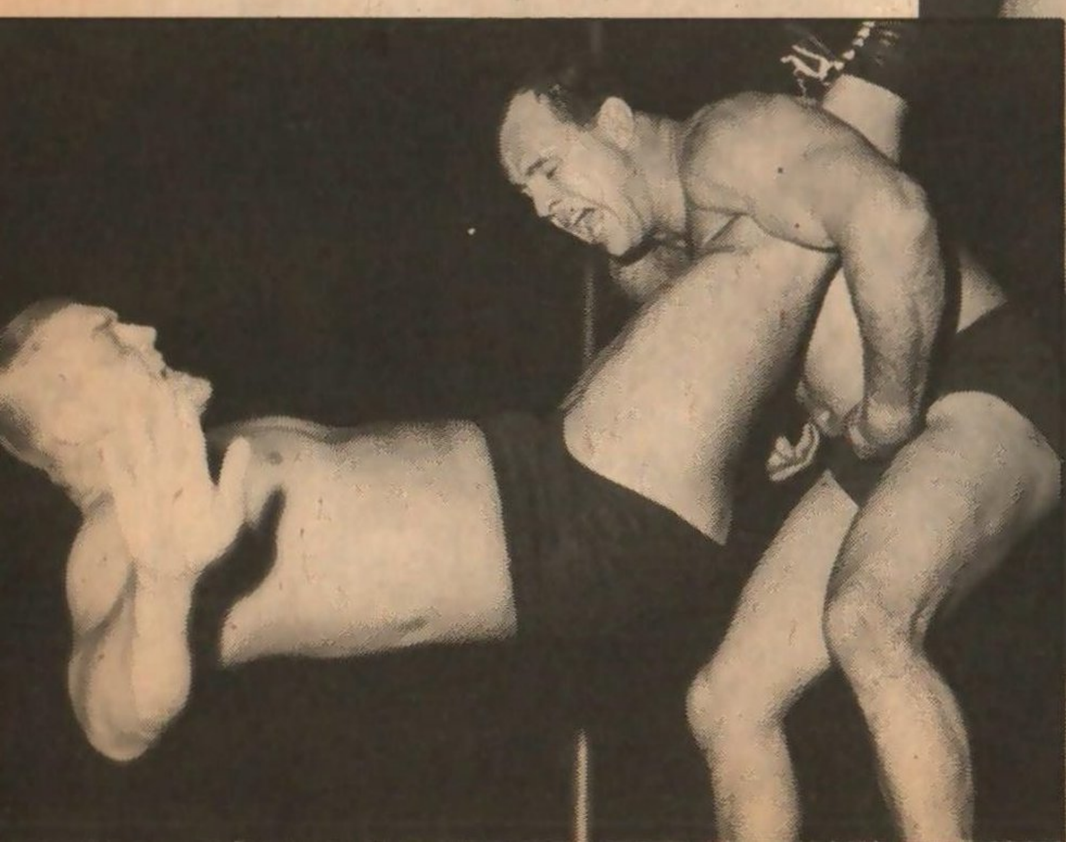
## By Randy Gordon

**Like an eternal symbol of decency who umbrellas the sport and protects it from all devious forces, Verne Gagne remains steadfast. Veteran scientific wrestling reporter Randy Gordon remembers Gagne in a moving, personal tribute**





Gagne leaps over two grapplers to prevent Killer Kowalski from interfering in a tag team match (above). Gagne as AWA titleholder (below). Verne uses an effective scientific maneuver against Bruiser (below left). Gagne will go down in history as a pioneer in his sport.



and class. He knew how to win and he knew how to keep losing from becoming a habit. But when he did lose, he knew how to accept defeat.

I don't know where the years went, but suddenly I had graduated from college. I started working for the sports department of a small midwestern newspaper.

My sports editor was a grizzled old man named Sandy Richards. He roared when he talked. A cigar stump always hung out of the side of his mouth.

I was on the job only a few days when Richards called me to his desk and bellowed, "Gordon, go out and get me a story on a wrestling champion by the name of Verne Gagne."

I looked at him in disbelief.

"You can't be serious," I said. "Gagne is in heavy training and . . ."

"If you come back here without the interview, Gordon, you'll have one last assignment here. And that will be to clean out your desk!"

I was shocked. How could he do this to me? Gagne was in training for a tough title defense against Larry Hennig. He'd never give me an interview. I was prepared for the worst.

When I arrived at Gagne's training camp (an abandoned

*(Continued on page 50)*

GREATEST WRESTLER

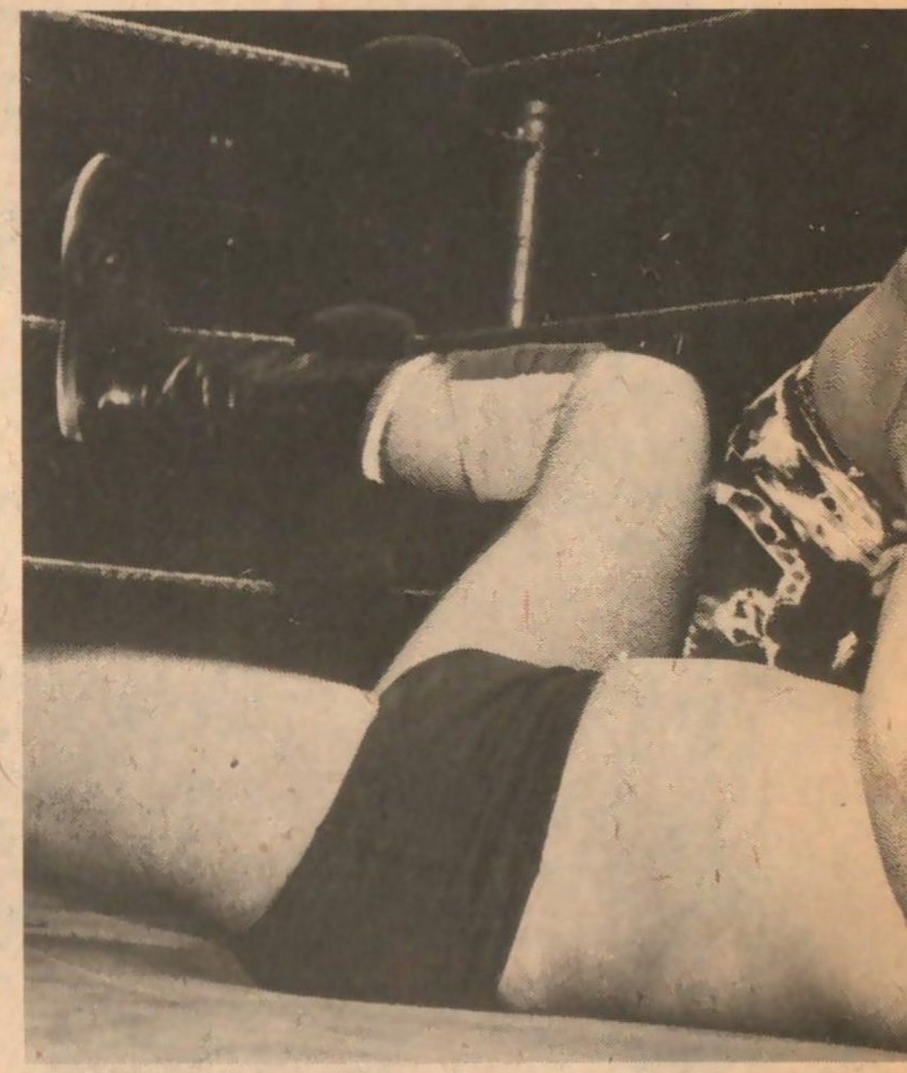
# SUPERSTAR GRAHAM

WHEN MOST PEOPLE think of Superstar Billy Graham, they visualize the image of a proud Adonis flexing his muscles. The majesty of his fantastic body glistening under the ring lights. That is the image. I think of the man.

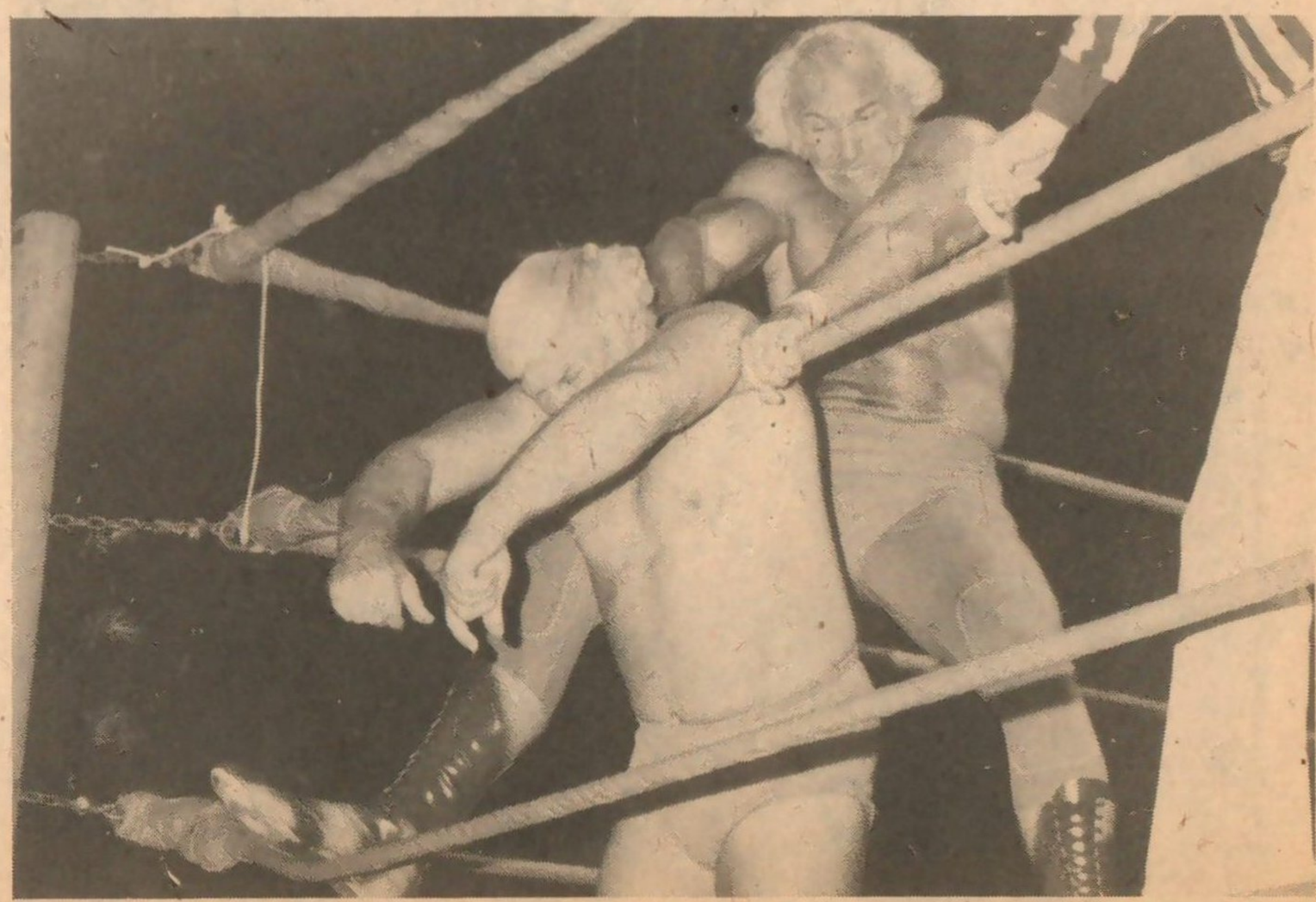
No man has risked and sacrificed more to be great than Superstar Billy Graham. When I think of him, he stands bloody and weary from battle. His massive shoulders are slumped, his eyes are sockets staring out of a scarlet mask. His gulps for air betray lungs aching for oxygen. He is everything but beaten. It is his opponent who must face the even greater torture of defeat. For Billy, victory is the most important thing of all. Every muscle, every bone, even life itself can be risked to achieve that goal.

Many people ask, "Why does a wrestler so dedicated have to wear those garish outfits and do all those bodybuilding stunts? You can't call a guy serious who does things like that."

People who say those things will never understand Billy Graham. To Billy, wrestling is too serious to be taken seriously. If he didn't have these costumes and antics, his mind would explode with the seriousness of wrestling. Billy

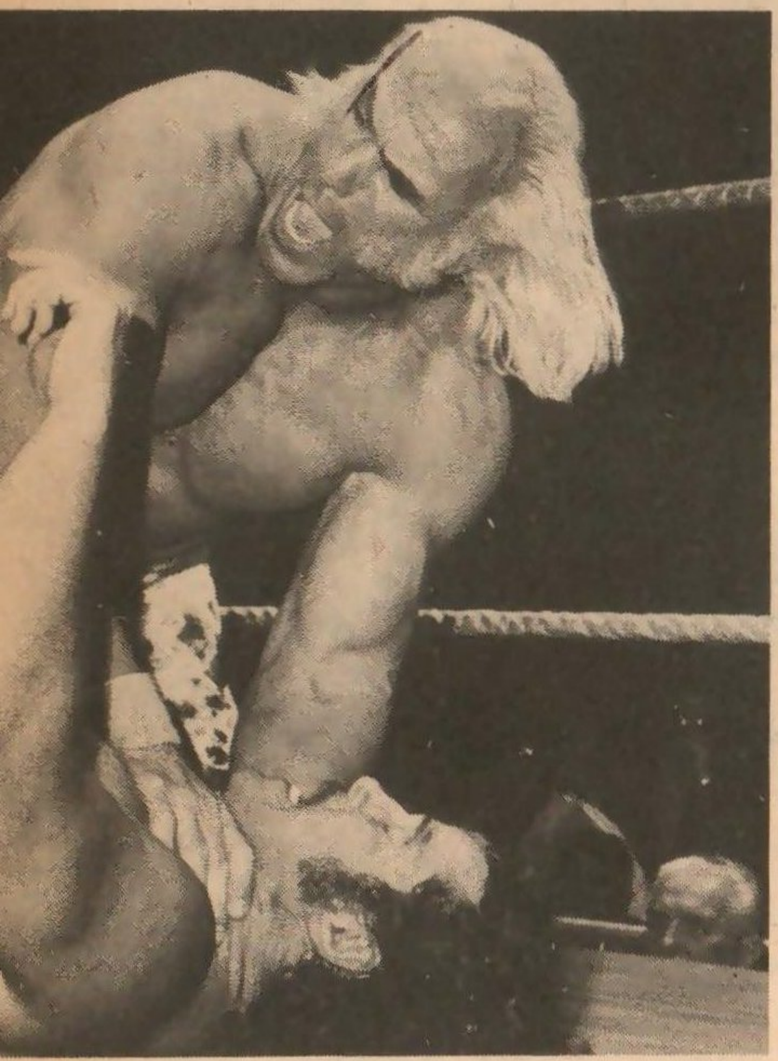


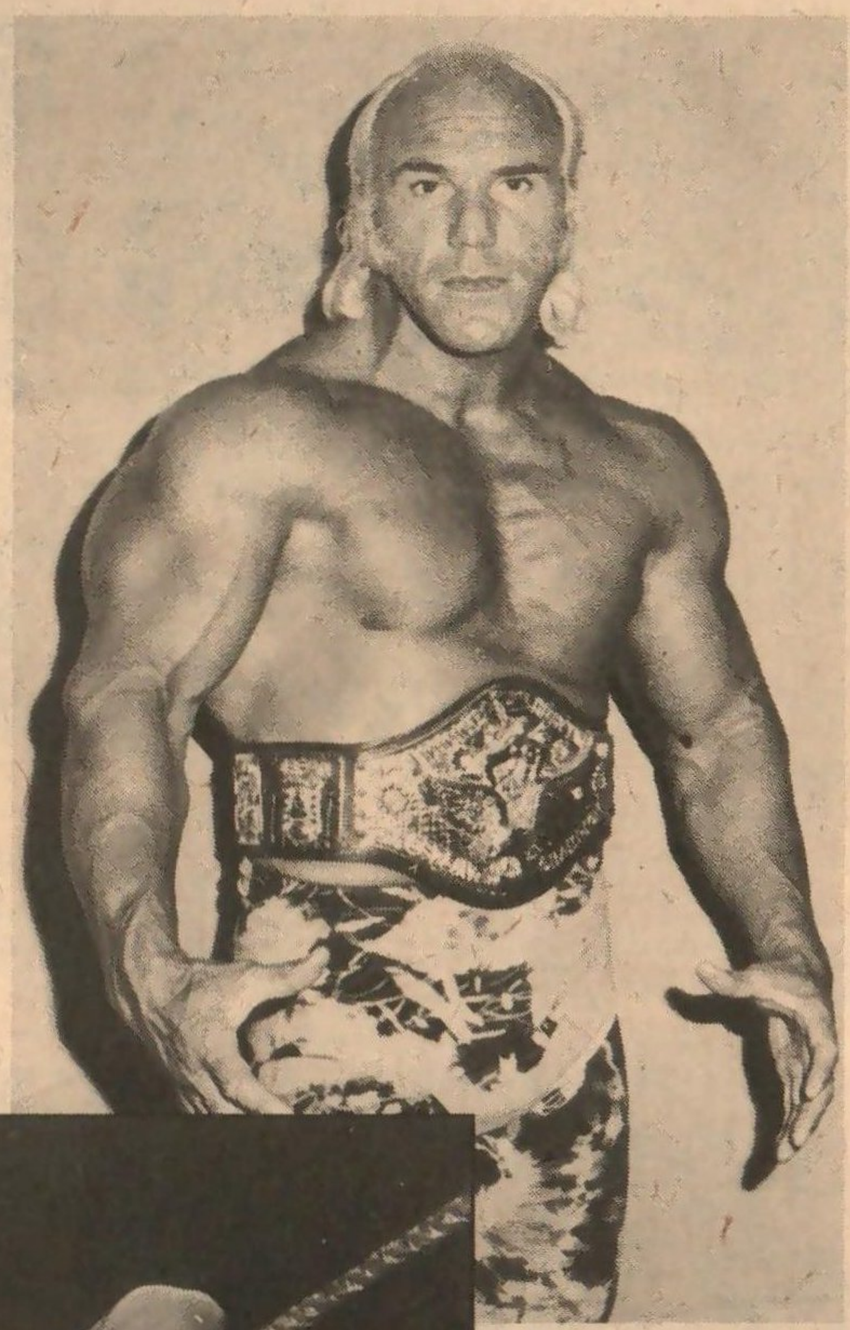
Graham often finds the rules a tiring nuisance. He chokes a helpless foe in Madison Square Garden (above). In a test of strength, Dusty Rhodes is no match for the Superstar (left). Billy works over a prone Crusher during a titanic struggle in Winnipeg (below). Graham has starred in every part of the wrestling world.

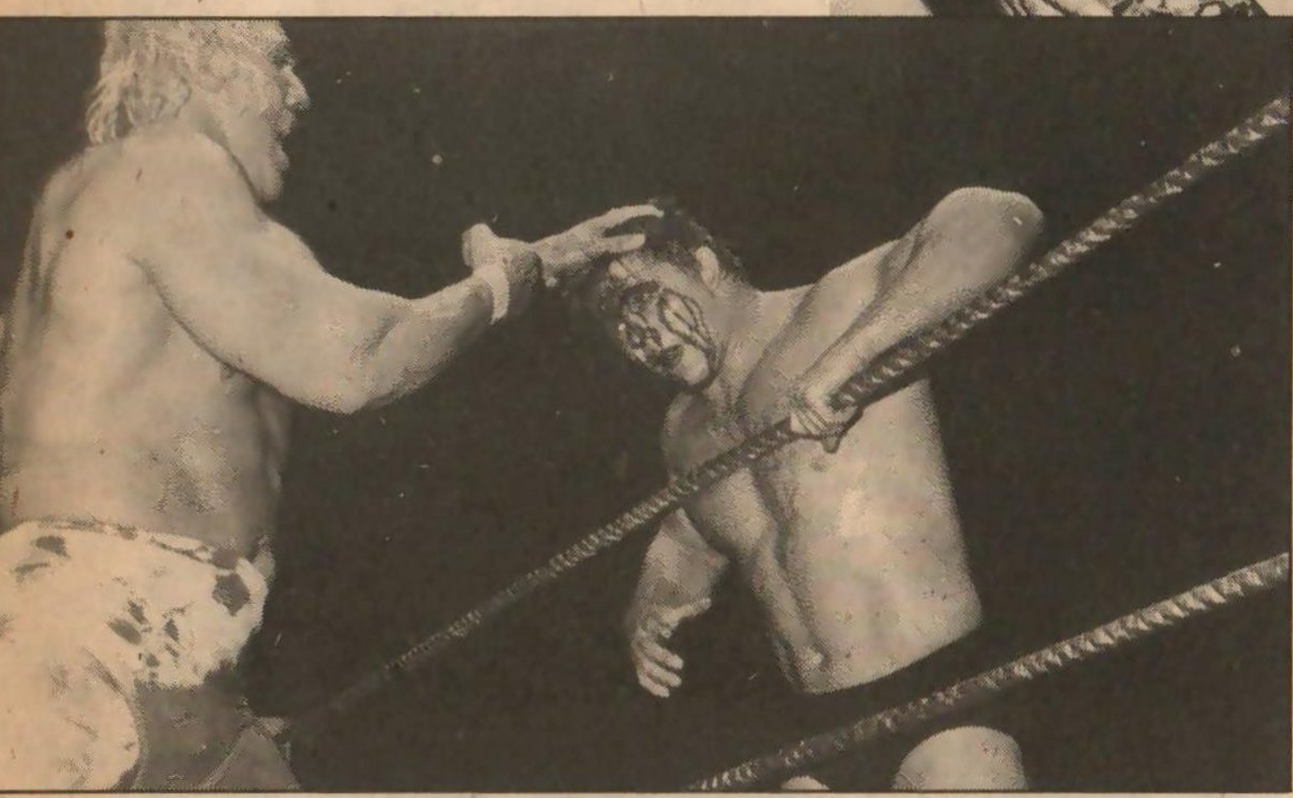


## By Dan Shocket

**You have just read why Randy Gordon considers Verne Gagne the greatest wrestler who ever lived. Now read this dissenting view by Dan Shocket, the writer who champions the rulebreakers. Shocket's choice for greatest wrestler is very different from Gordon's**







Superstar Graham as champion (above). He bloodies Bob Backlund (left), and elbow-smashes former scientific star Peter Maivia (below).

needs an escape valve, some way to take his mind off the awesome task ahead. He's the most serious man I've ever met.

Look at the record. Can anyone else equal the variety of opponents, the distance traveled, or the honors won? Is there a wrestler whose achievements in single and tag team wrestling compare with Graham? Is there anyone who has excelled so often in so many brutal matches?

The ignorant call Graham a rulebreaker. They cheer for his opponents. Billy doesn't care. Why should he worry about the riff-raff? He's a winner, a man born to wrestle. He laughs when they say he's a dirty grappler.

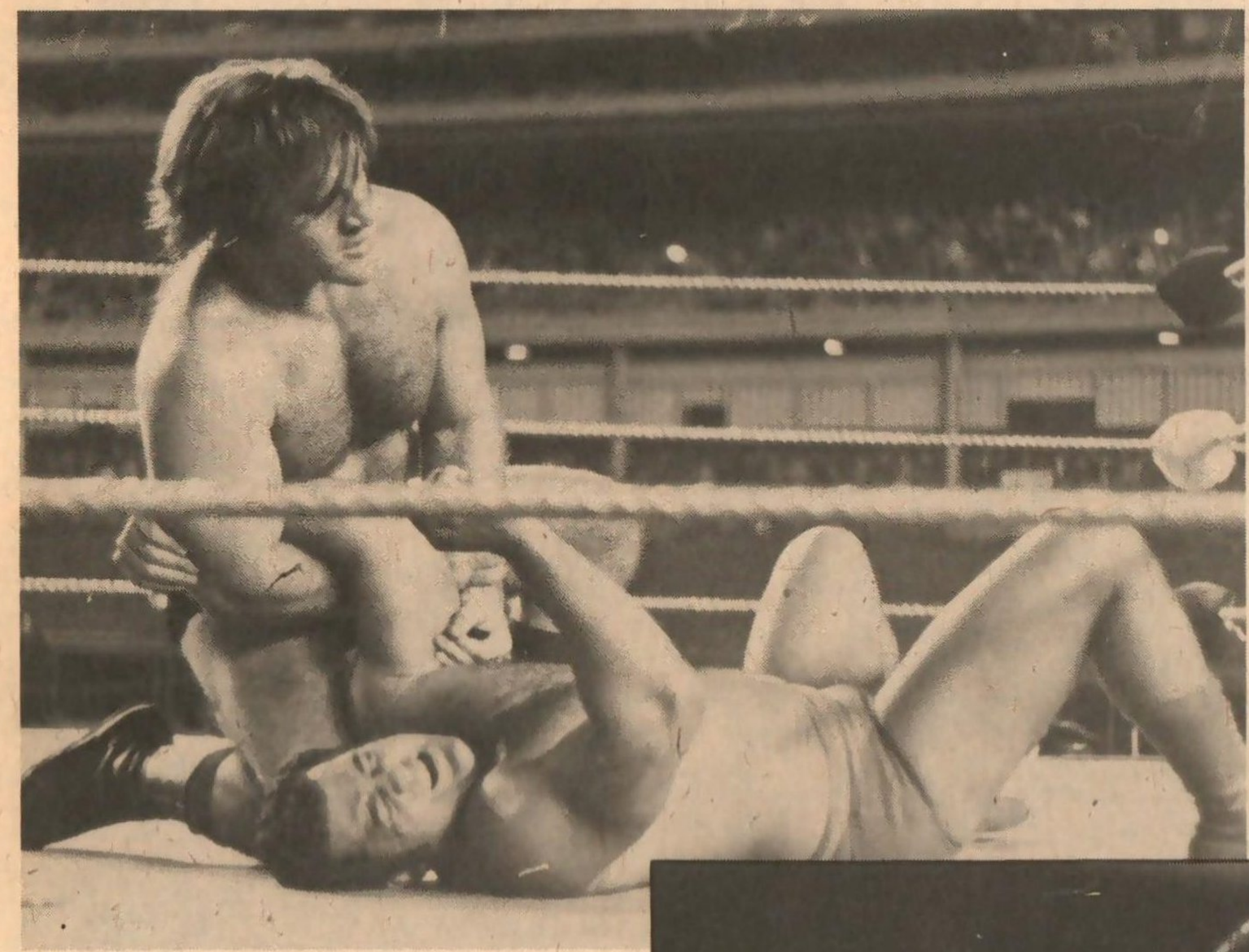
"I win," he counters, "and I intend to keep winning. If I'm a dirty grappler, why don't the referees stop me? Anyway, what are rules but handcuffs for the feeble. When my opponents lose, they shout, 'He didn't wrestle fair!' The rules become an excuse to hide behind. I don't hide. I win. Most of those guys who complain aren't wrestlers, they're whiners. The fans are the same way. How come people who call me a rulebreaker have never read the rulebook? Probably because they can't read."

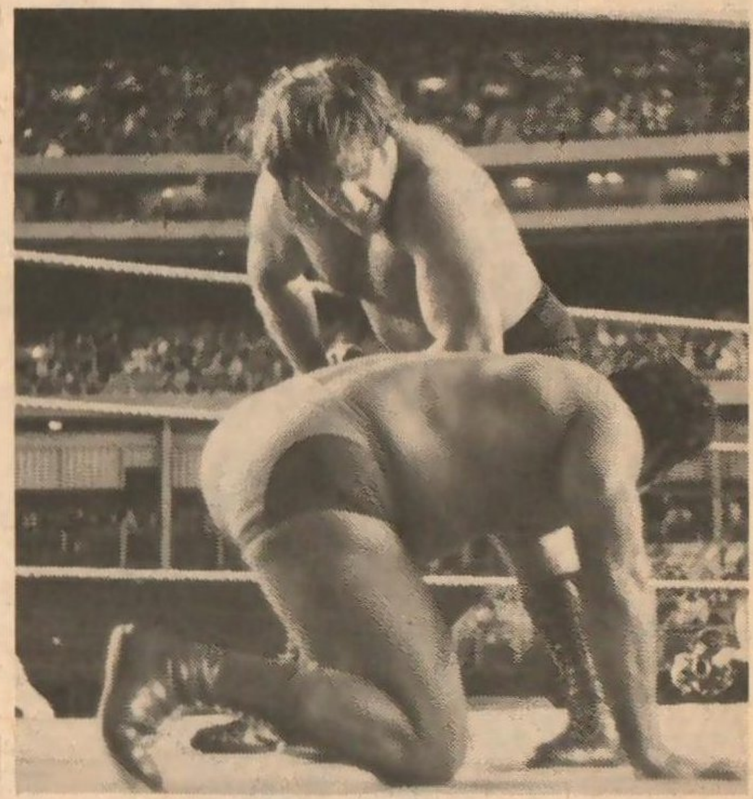
Billy has remained supreme

*(Continued on page 52)*

GREATEST MATCH

# BRUNO SAMMARTINO VS. PEDRO MORALES





Bruno armbars a prone Pedro (left). Sammartino remains in control with an effective armlock in ring center (above). Morales flies toward the ropes (below).

A CHILLING RAIN cascaded over the 22,000 fans. Many shivered, as much from the dampness as from the anticipation of the match.

It was September 30, 1972. The scene was Shea Stadium in New York City. Bruno Sammartino versus Pedro Morales for the WWF title.

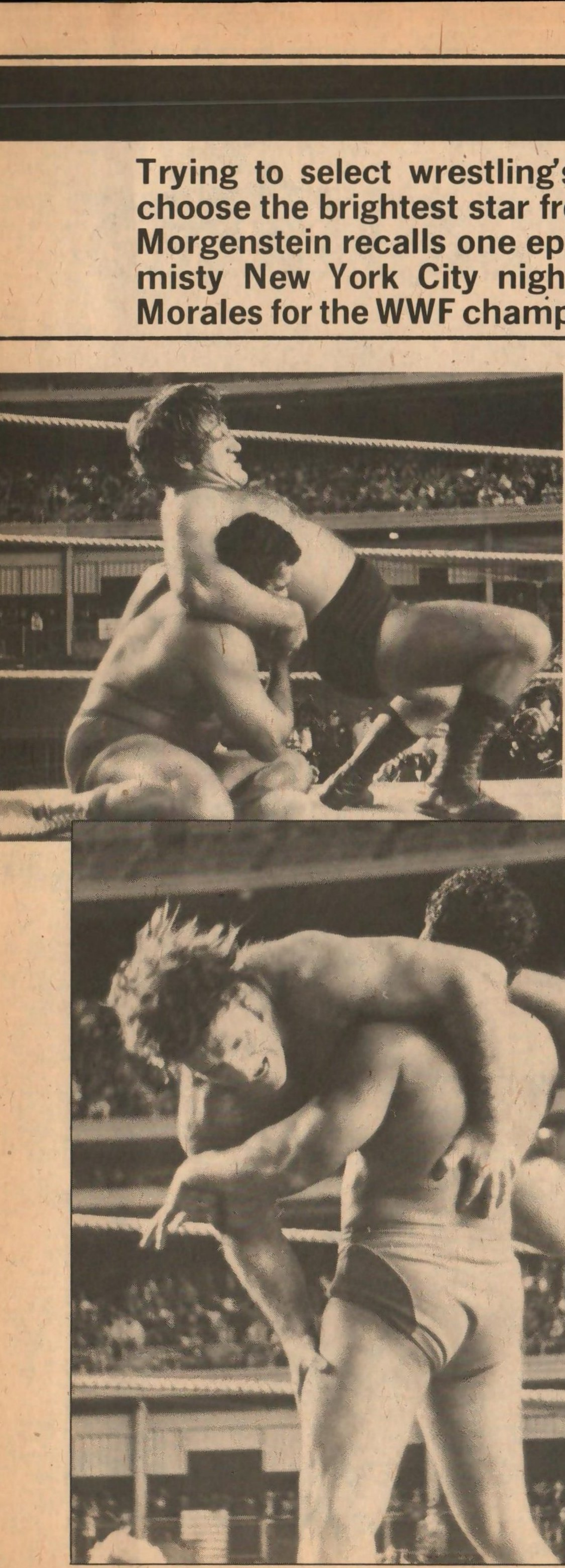
As far as I'm concerned, this was the greatest wrestling match ever.

Morales had been champion for quite some time. His reign had been one of character and class. This match did nothing to demean that aura.

As for Sammartino, he was the same, whether champion or challenger. Rugged. Strong. Determined. Emotional.

## By Gary Morgenstein

**Trying to select wrestling's greatest match is like trying to choose the brightest star from a clear sky. Nevertheless, Gary Morgenstein recalls one epic battle with fond memories. On a misty New York City night, Bruno Sammartino met Pedro Morales for the WWF championship.**



The fierce, scientific action speeded up as the unforgettable match continued (above and left).

Besides the drama of a title match and beyond the prestige of wrestling in a modern stadium, the rarity of two scientific wrestlers confronting each other made this a very special occasion.

For years, promoters had avoided matches involving two scientific wrestlers. They insisted that fans would not pay to see such matches.

The fans who thronged to Shea Stadium on that cold evening forever shattered that myth.

At the start, it was apparent that scientific wrestling would govern. Each man implemented a crushing hold, only to have his foe twist and spin

*(Continued on page 54)*

GREATEST TAG TEAM

# THE VALIANT BROTHERS

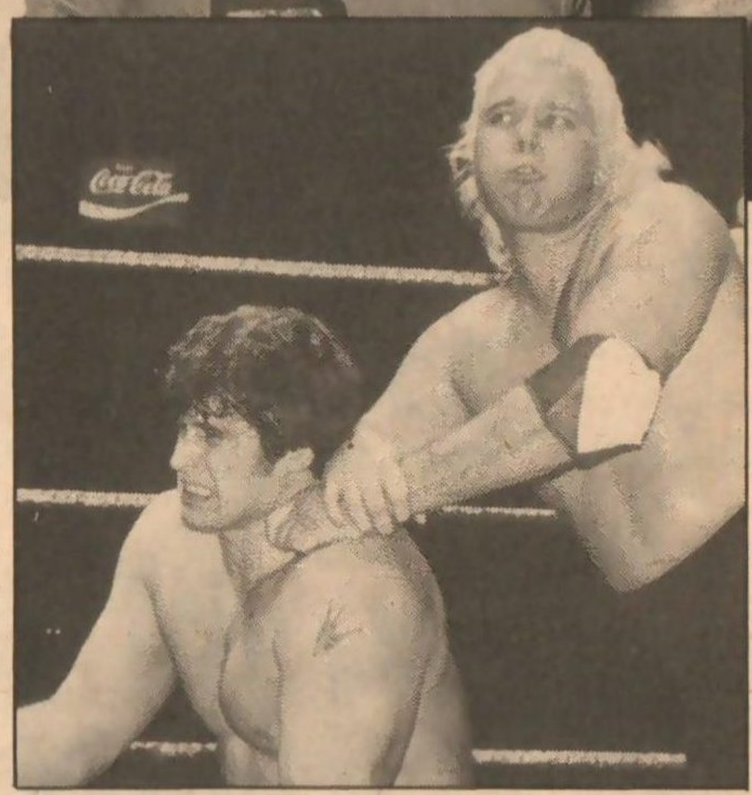
WHEN JIM VALIANT formed a tag team with his brother Johnny, a terrible beauty was born. Their tactics were undeniably evil, but there was something about them which was almost appealing.

Yes, I know about the men the Valiants have crippled. Yes, I'm aware of the careers they have ended. But this is not the time for judgement. That will occur at a future date and will be done by someone more qualified than I. This is a tribute to the Valiant Brothers, the greatest tag team in wrestling history.

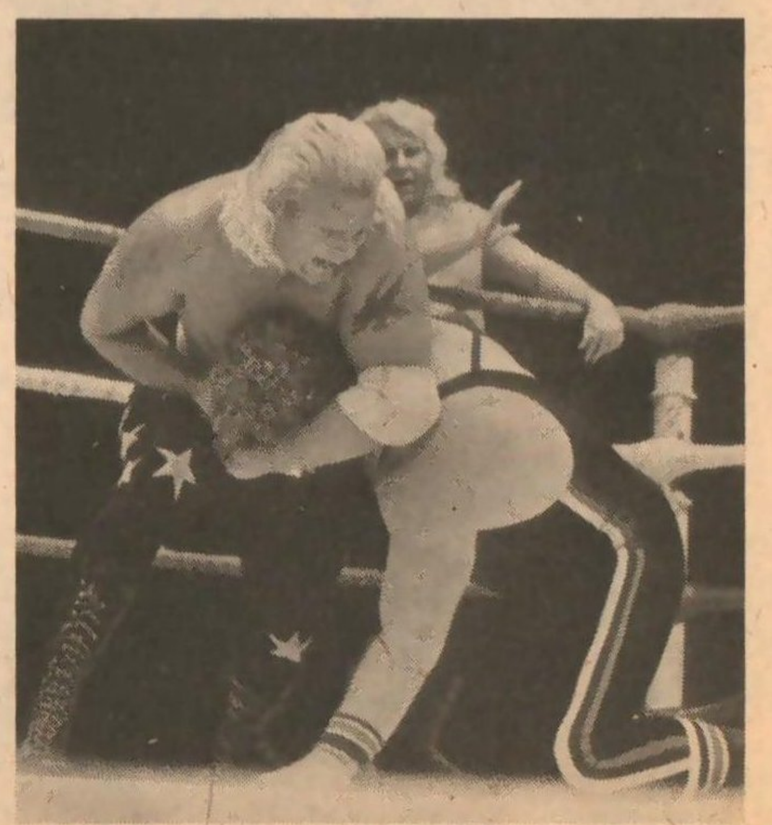
The saga of this team begins years before it was formed. Jimmy Valiant, a rookie, learned how to wrestle in the rings of the WWF. At first, both victories and cheers were his. The victories continue to this day, though the cheers are no more.

"The Grand Wizard, bless him," Jimmy says, "convinced me of the correct way to wrestle. Win, baby, win, win, and win some more. It was the beginning of the Valiant era, those early years. And Wiz had a lot to do with it."

After his contract with Wizard expired, Jimmy went to the WWA. The course of wrestling history was to be changed.



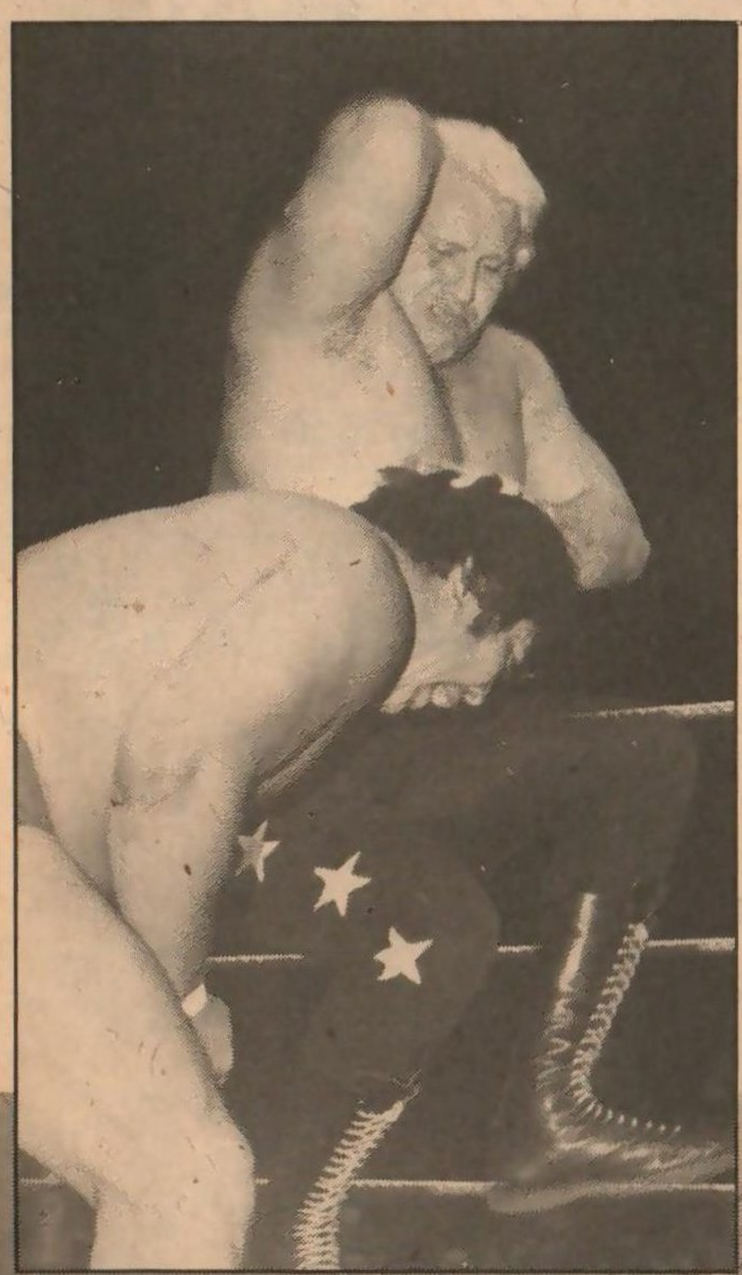
John, Jim and manager Albano, the first time around (above). Jimmy punishes Tony Garea (right). Jim headlocks a prone Larry Hennig (below right). The Grand Wizard turned Jimmy Valiant into a rulebreaker (below). Jim was once a scientific grappler.

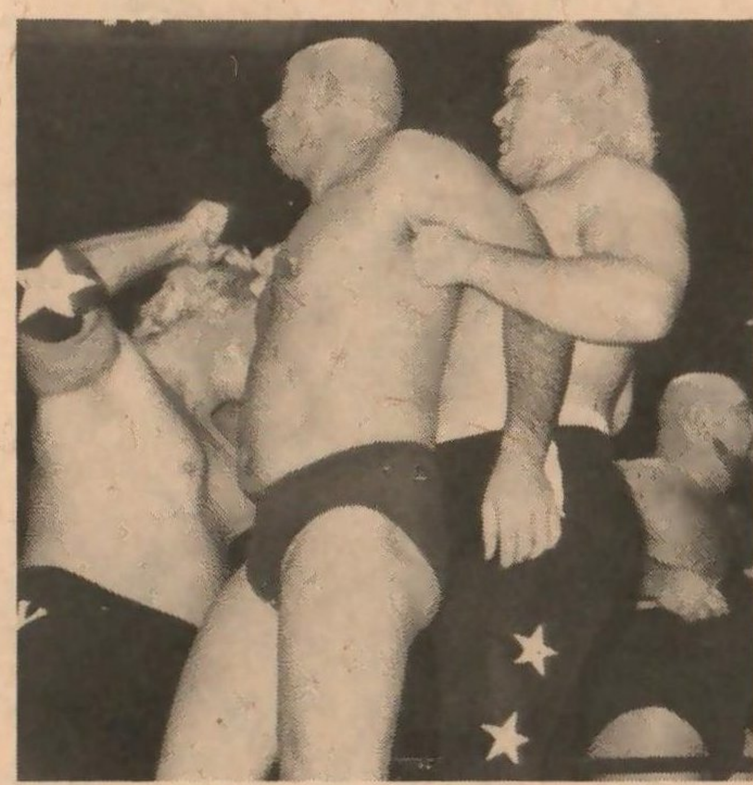


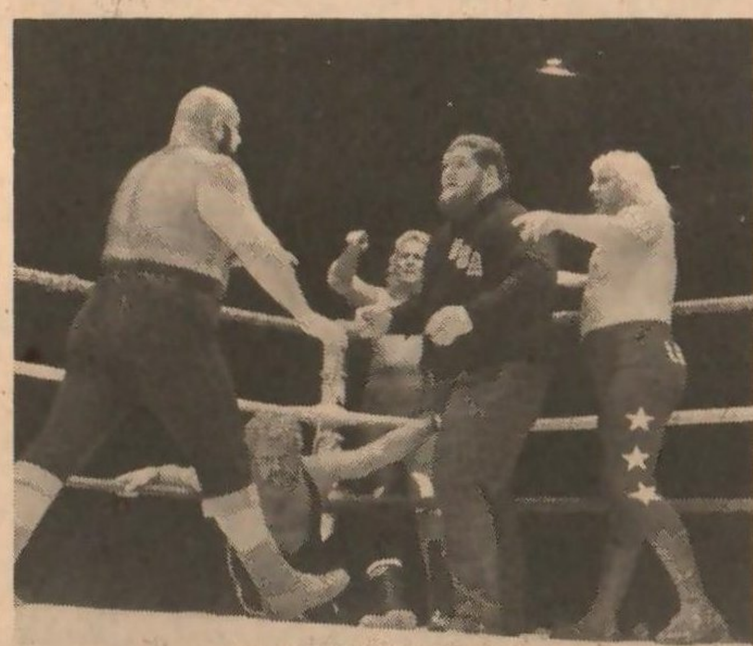
By Peter King

**Combining brotherly love with a passionate need to destroy, the Valiant Brothers stand alone among wrestling tag teams. Editor-in-Chief Peter King analyzes the champions and delves into why they will be remembered as the sport's greatest tag team**

The Valiants doubleteam Billy Red Cloud (right). Chris Taylor interferes during a battle between The Valiants and Larry Hennig and Jos Leduc (below right). John elbowsmashes Dean Ho in Madison Square Garden (below). Bloody but victorious, Johnny and Jimmy celebrate after another title defense (bottom).







"My little brother, John, followed me out west. I got the dude some matches, all of which he won, naturally. Then, on August 19, 1973, James and John, the Valiant Brothers, became a team. In our first match, we forced both Bruiser and Crusher into retirement, daddy."

The first chapter of a mutated American success story was written. One day after their first victory, the Valiants received this postcard:

"I want to be your manager. Enclosed is two hundred thousand dollars. We will sign a contract tomorrow." The postcard was sent by Bobby Heenan.

And the Valiants grew in reputation. Under Heenan, the brothers won the WWA tag team title. They defended the belts against the top stars in wrestling—Bruiser and Bob Ellis, Bruiser and Bruno Sammartino, Crusher and Bruiser. By early 1974, the Valiants were considered the best tag team in the country. And this is where Captain Louis Albano enters the story.

"Listen, I wanted a tag team that could win the WWF title from Garea and Ho," Lou Albano said. "And, when the Captain wants something,

*(Continued on page 56)*

GREATEST MANAGER

# LOU ALBANO

I'LL NEVER FORGET the first time I met the Captain. I had been at the job only a few days. I was just getting to know some of the great wrestling journalists at our magazines. Matt Brock, my trusted mentor, brought me into the dressing room area at Madison Square Garden. Imagine how I felt! I was still in awe of Brock. Now I was going to meet the greatest wrestlers in the world!

The fellows at the office had warned me about Albano. "Watch him," they said. "He'll try to slip you a hundred dollar bill and he'll claim he owns you for life." Albano has a reputation for intimidating young journalists. But I was with Brock. I knew Albano would be kept in check. Matt always looks out for his own.

Like a wide-eyed child by his mother's side in a crowded department store, I clung to Brock. We strutted into Albano's dressing room. The Captain was an impressive sight. I'll never forget the feeling that came over me. It is the feeling I always get whenever I meet a great man.

"Matthew," the Captain greeted Brock. "What's shakin', Daddy-O? Get thrown out of any pubs lately?"

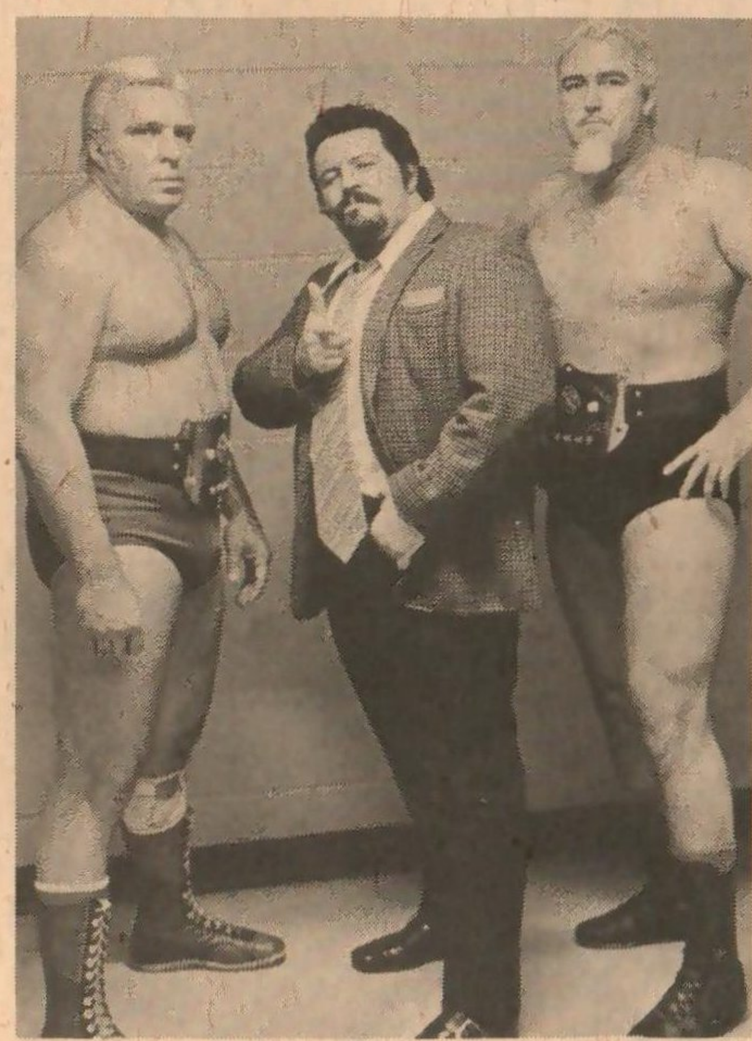
Brock was calm and mellow. A trio of muggers in

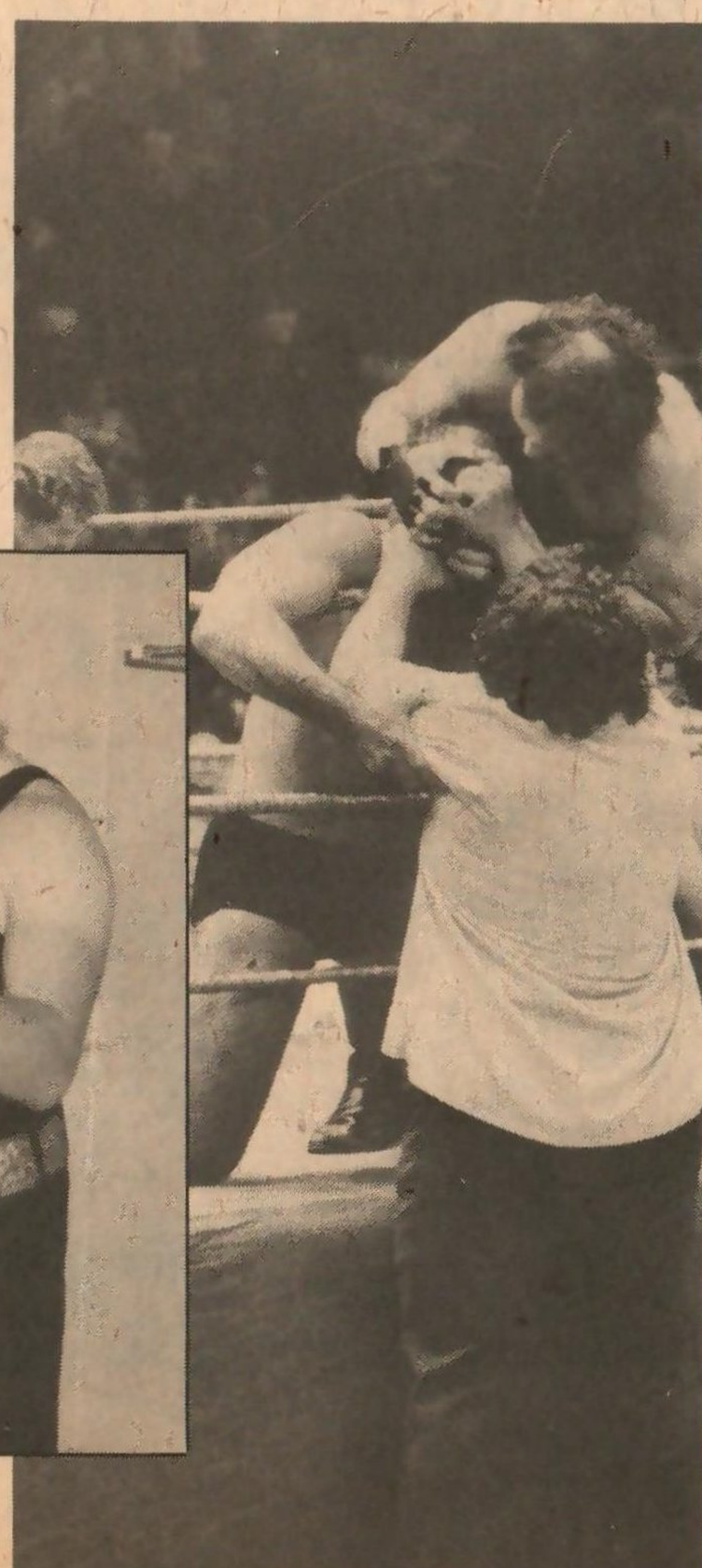
Manager Lou Albano with one of his first tag teams, WWF champions Baron Scicluna and King Curtis (above). A wild Lou Albano is restrained by his own wrestler, Blackjack Mulligan, after a hectic tag team match (below).

Albano struts around the ring after the introduction of Crusher Verdu, who was a top challenger for the WWF title (above). Vanity has never been one of the Captain's weaknesses (below).

## By Steven Farhood

**Lou Albano may be crazy. He also may be a wrestling genius. What is undeniable is his record as a professional manager. Writer Steven Farhood describes Albano through the fresh eyes of an objective, rookie writer**





Albano poses proudly with his WWF tag team champions, Tarzan Tyler and Luke Graham (above right). A common sight: Albano interferes (right). The Executioners were another championship tag team (below) led by Albano.

an alleyway wouldn't make him blink.

"Cap, this is Farhood. Steve Farhood. He's new with us. Don't give him any garbage, Lou. If you do, you answer to me."

I shook Albano's hand. It was moist and cold. His curly beard seemed to emit an odor that made me want to gag. Nevertheless, he was magnetic. I think it was his eyes. I had never seen eyes that penetrated and glowed like his.

"Kid," Albano said, "If Brock says you're okay, you won't get no nonsense from me."

My next few meetings with Albano strictly concerned business. Brock always stressed that when dealing with most of the men in professional wrestling, find what you have to know and get out. Well, Albano didn't always make it easy for me. While my mind still isn't made up on what kind of person he is, my reflections concerning his managing are clear; Captain Lou Albano is the greatest manager in wrestling history.

Of course, Lou was once a grappler himself. He was never championship material. Too often, when former greats begin to manage, they

*(Continued on page 58)*

## GREATEST NON-CHAMPION WRESTLER

# ANTONINO ROCCA

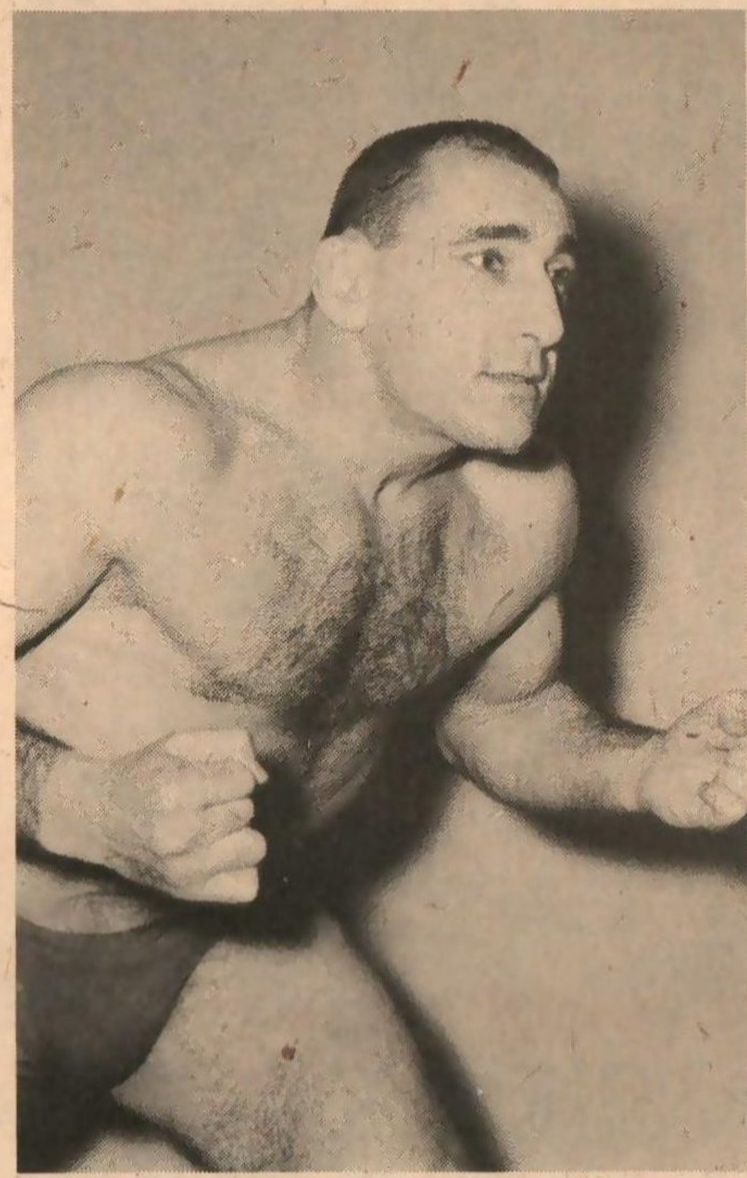
I STARTED FOLLOWING professional wrestling when I was six years old. But that is not when I first heard the name Rocca. My older brother Paul made certain I knew who Rocca was.

For "playtime," Paul would stand me on the bed and position me "a little more to the right," and then, "no, move back and to the left." When he had me where he wanted me (we went through this ritual dozens of times) he would yell "Rocca dropkick." There I was, the victim of two feet sailing into my chin.

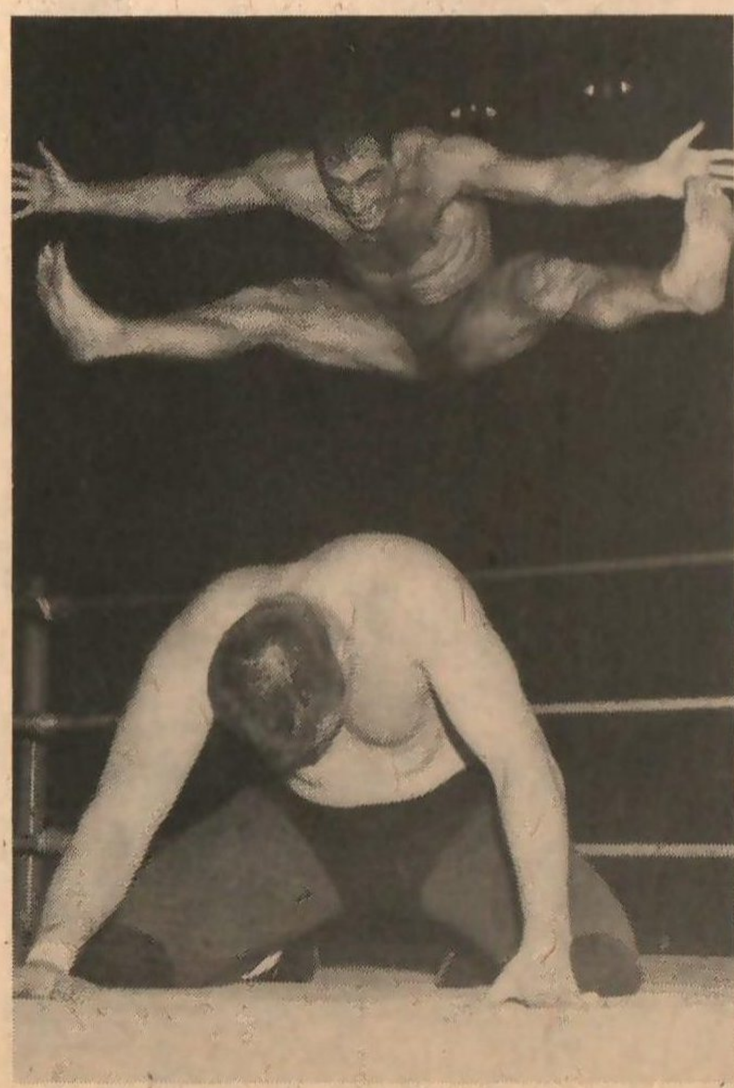
One evening I watched TV wrestling with Paul. I finally saw who my brother was imitating—Antonino Rocca—a muscularly built man who grappled barefoot in the ring. I had seen wrestling several times before—but no one had caught and held my limited attention span. I could not understand why Paul was watching this.

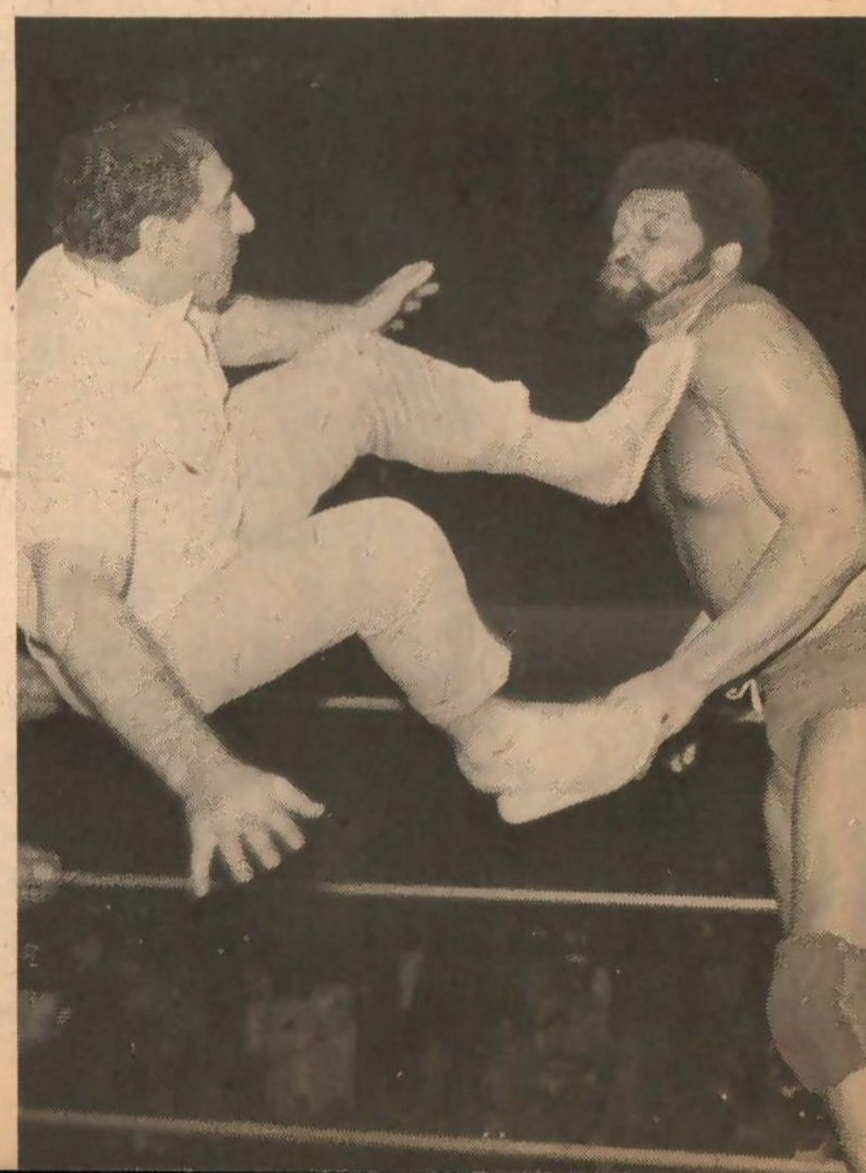
Soon Rocca began wrestling. His opponent never had a chance. Rocca was leaping all over the ring, catching his hapless victim with flying headscissors, mule kicks and of course, the patented Rocca flying dropkick.

After this showing, I was hooked. I was a diehard Rocca fan. As I was growing up, I followed the career of Rocca,



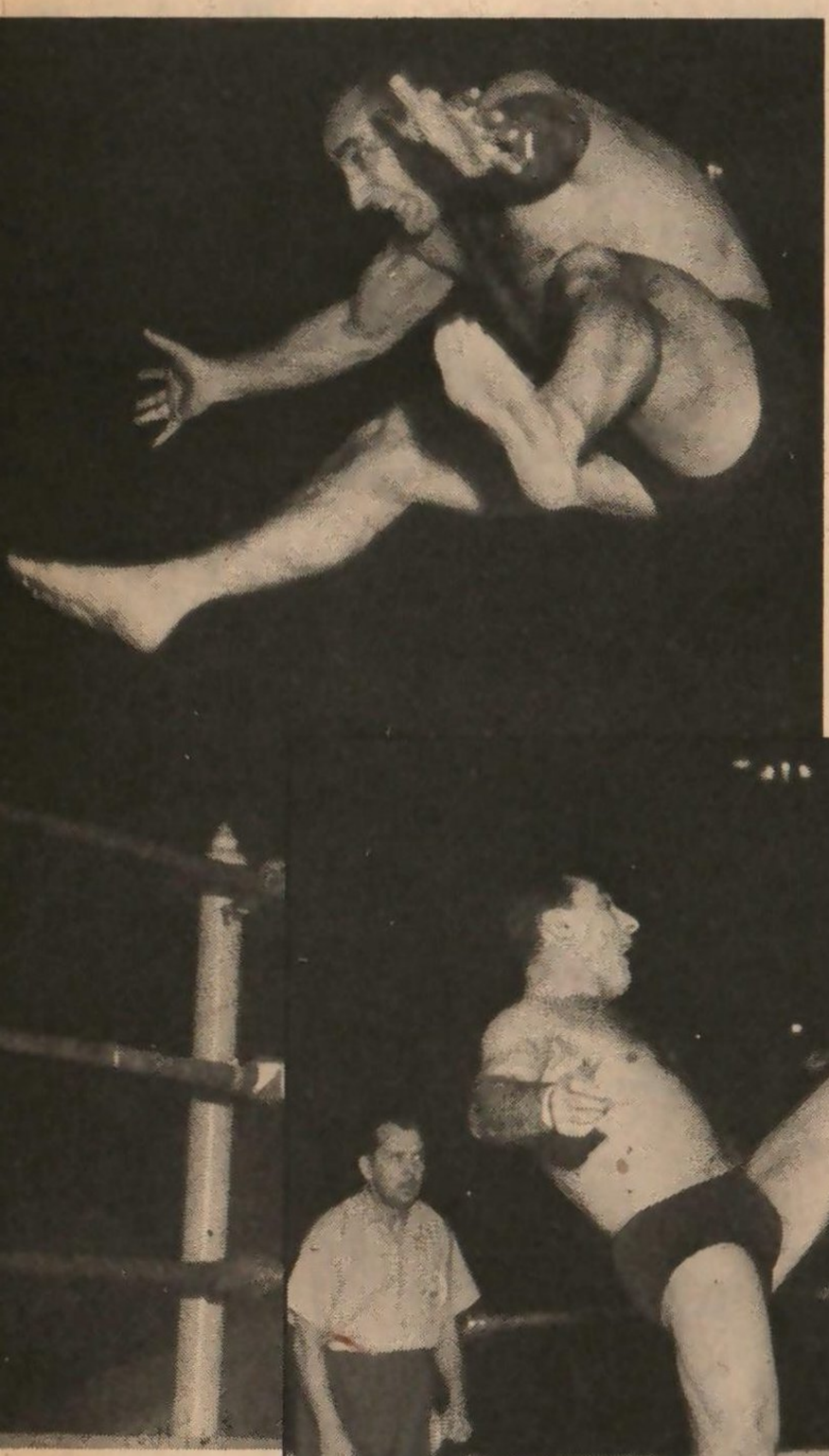
The great Antonino Rocca in a classic pose (above). Displaying his incredible aerial abilities, Rocca flies over a stunned Bill Miller (below). Rocca, in civilian clothes, dropkicks Ernie Ladd (below right). Rocca was from Argentina.

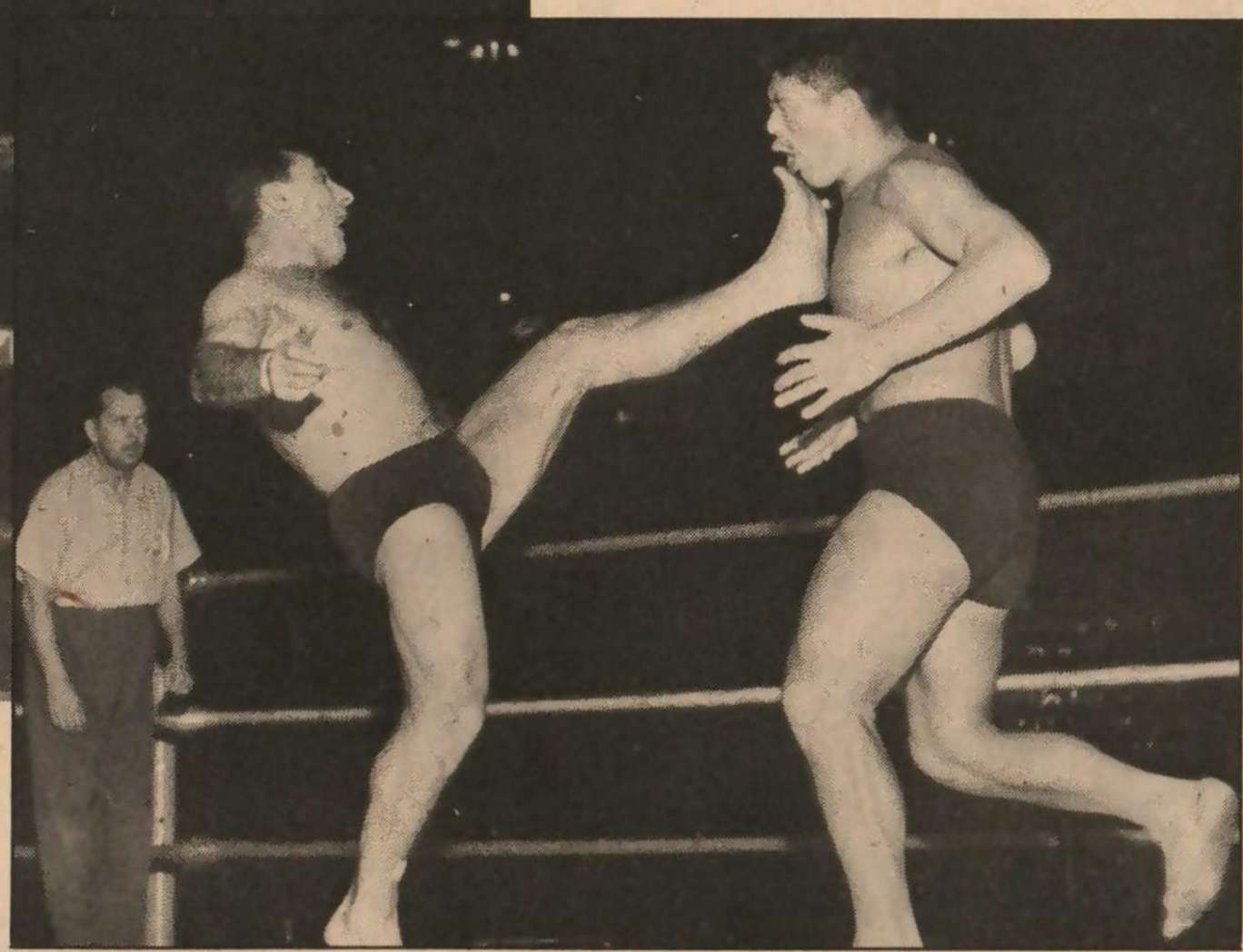




## By Bill Apter

**Although Antonino Rocca is no longer with us, his mark on the sport he loved will stand forever. Managing editor Bill Apter, a Rocca fan and admirer for several years, offers a moving, emotional remembrance to the Rocca legend**





Killer Kowalski cannot believe what he sees; a flying Antonino Rocca is about to pounce on the prone rulebreaker (left). Demonstrating his unique speed and agility, Rocca lands a foot to the chin of Oriental superstar Shohei Baba (below). Rocca always wrestled barefooted. One of his most intense rivalries existed with the great Buddy Rogers. Rocca's Argentine backbreaker has Rogers helpless (bottom). Unlike Rogers, Rocca was never able to win the championship of a major federation.

the most talented man in the squared circle.

Rocca received a long-awaited championship match against NWA king Pat O'Connor in 1960. How I wished I could have seen this match! But I was too young to attend. Rocca and the champion grappled to a stalemate (I found out from a lucky older friend who did get to go).

I was much more fortunate in the years to come. At the age of 14, I was going to Madison Square Garden. Rocca was going to wrestle Buddy Rogers (the man who dethroned O'Connor) for the NWA title on my first night at the matches.

Buddy Rogers was the most despised man in wrestling. Rocca was the most loved. Everyone wanted to see Rocca win. I was no exception.

What a match! Rocca was brilliant. So was Rogers. It was a classic brawl that kept the fans in a frenetic state. But Rocca did not walk away with the belt. He had been injured by Rogers' figure-four leglock early in the match. It led to his ultimate disappointment.

Year after year, Rocca received more and more title shots. The fans came by the thousands to support him, but he could not win the big

*(Continued on page 62)*

# 1961

I REMEMBER 1961 for three reasons. A blonde named Loreen, my skin clearing up and pro wrestling. Actually, my skin never cleared up. I just stopped looking in the mirrors.

Actually, the year evokes fond memories. Guys like Pat O'Connor, Killer Kowalski, NWA champion Buddy Rogers, a young Bruno Sammartino. Maybe I'm a sentimental old fluff or just senile, but I miss the golden days.

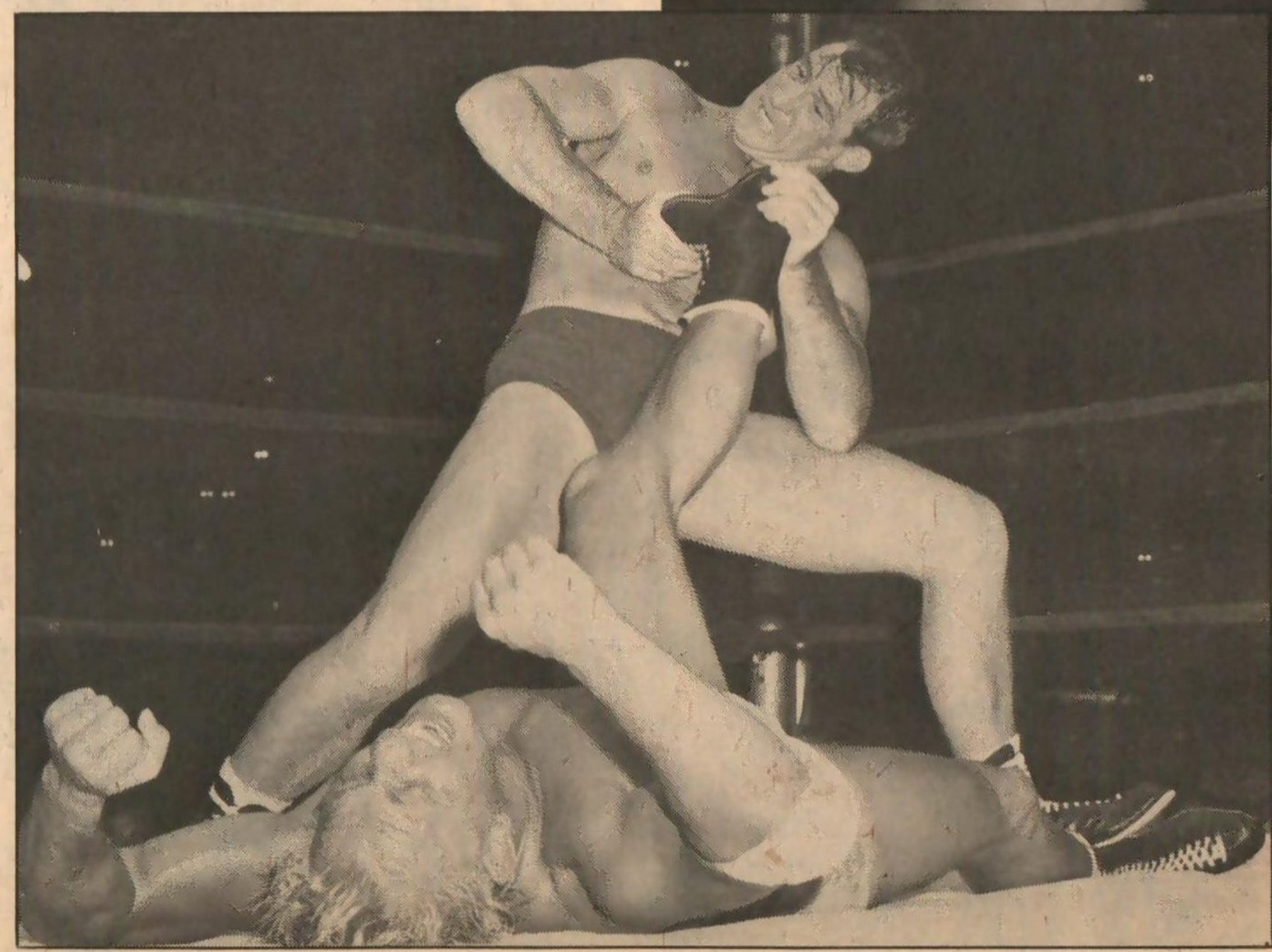
Like a child on the edge of adolescence, professional wrestling was about to blossom. Already, the sport had seized the American public through that hypnotizing instrument known as the television. I never owned one. Could never figure how to plug it in.

Fixed images and spinning emotions embody that year. There was this handsome rookie who'd hang around the arenas. Even then, he had a tough, though gentle quality to him. His name was Bruno Sammartino.

Then there was a big dude. Name of Sailor Art Thomas, a Merchant Marine. Thomas would interrupt everyone, a thick finger stuck in the hook of his knapsack, and demand he be allowed to wrestle.

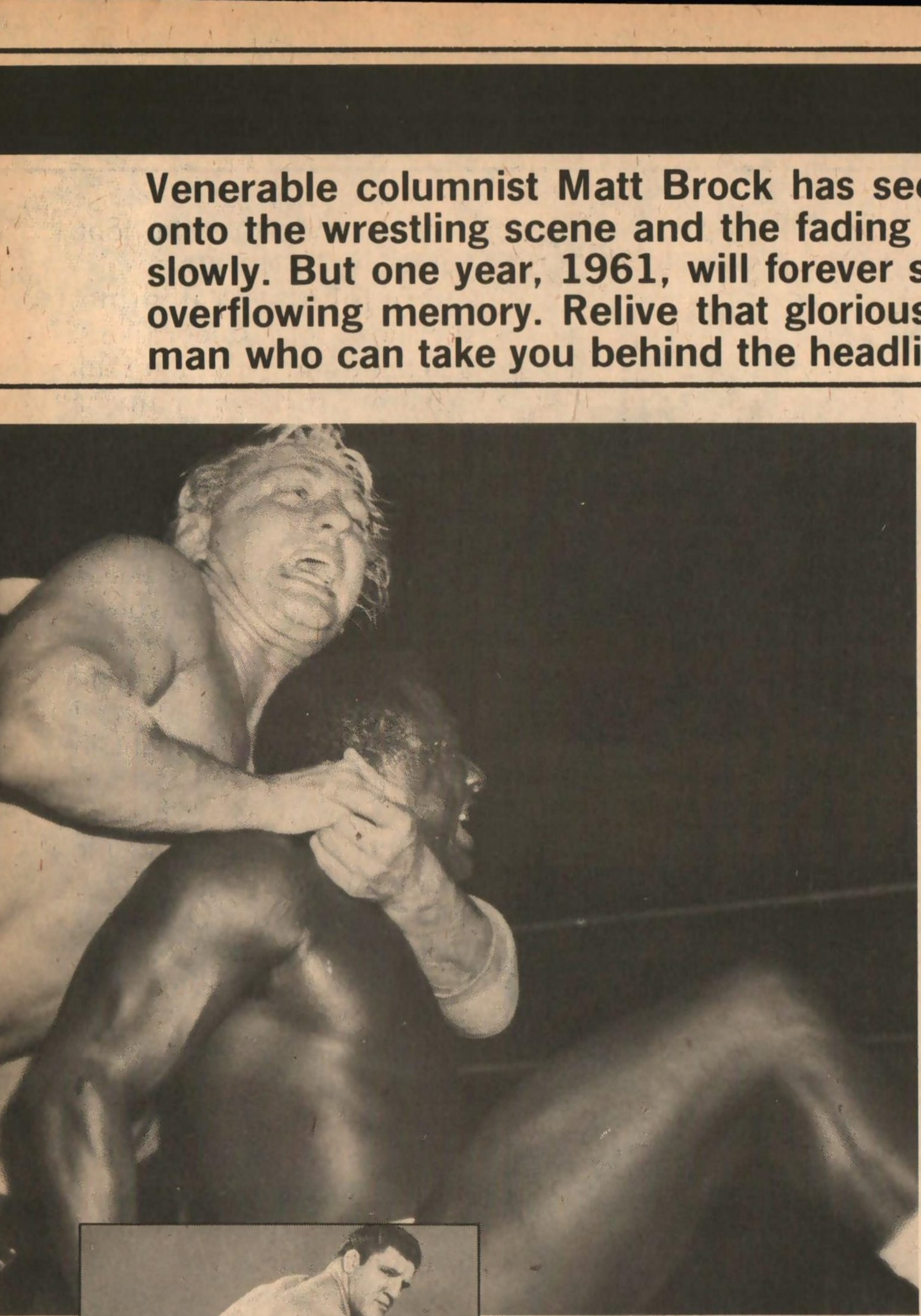
There were the immortals.

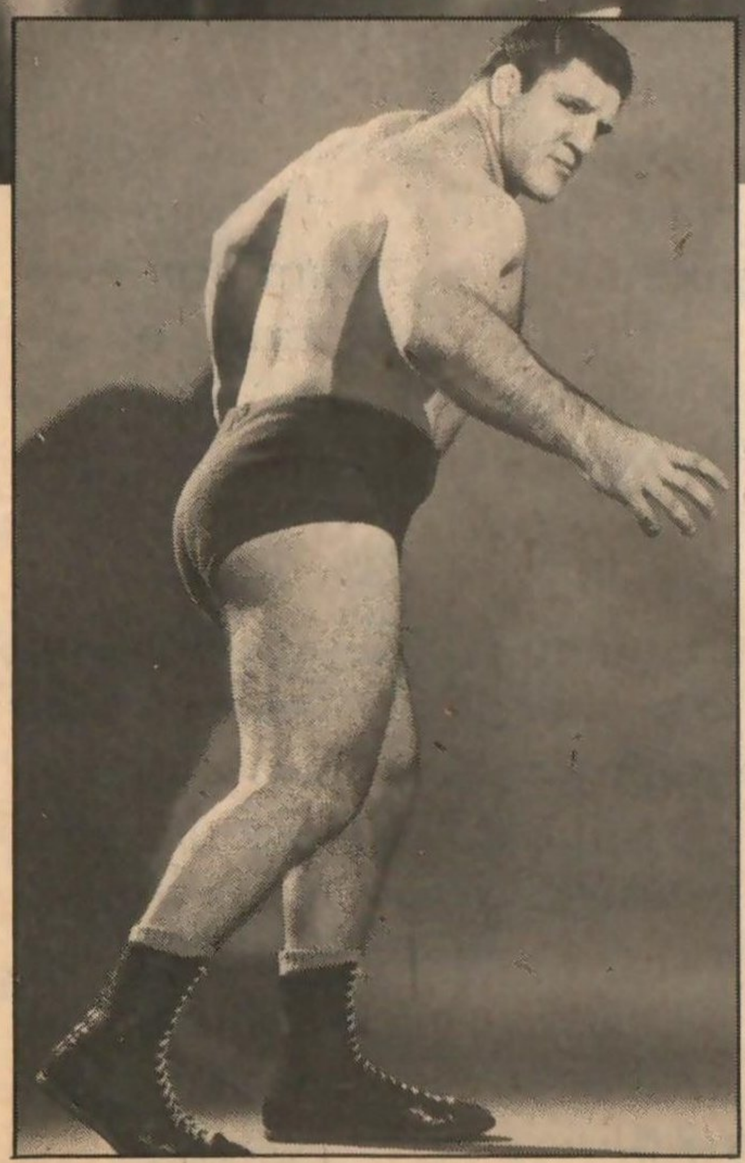
The memorable year of 1961 featured epic struggles between Killer Kowalski and Ed Carpentier (above). Pat O'Connor has challenger Buddy Rogers in agony (below) but Rogers recovered to defeat O'Connor for the NWA title.



## By Matt Brock

**Venerable columnist Matt Brock has seen the rookies rush onto the wrestling scene and the fading veterans disappear slowly. But one year, 1961, will forever stand out in Brock's overflowing memory. Relive that glorious year with the only man who can take you behind the headlines**





Buddy Rogers weakens Dory Dixon (above). A young future superstar, Bruno Sammartino (left). In a tough test, Bruno battles Haystacks Calhoun (below).

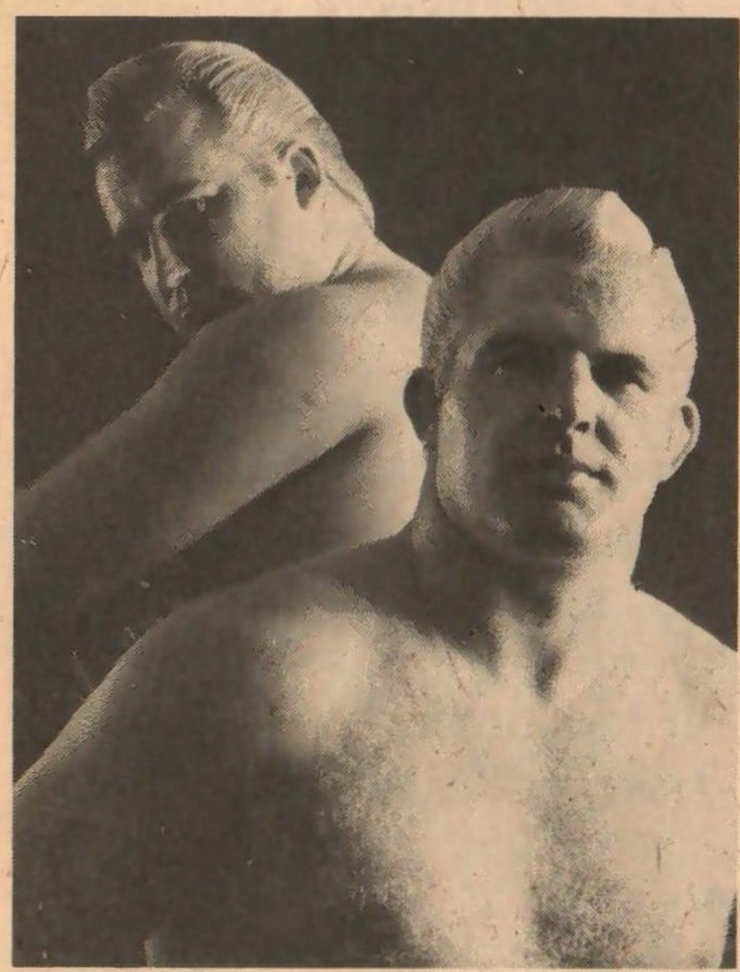
One was the late Antonino Rocca. In all my years, I've never seen *any* man so idolized. From someone who knew him personally and professionally, I can say he deserved it. What a man.

Another great was Dory Funk Sr. Like Rocca, Dory is no longer with us. But the memory of Funk quivering with rage at his opponent's treachery is always alive within me.

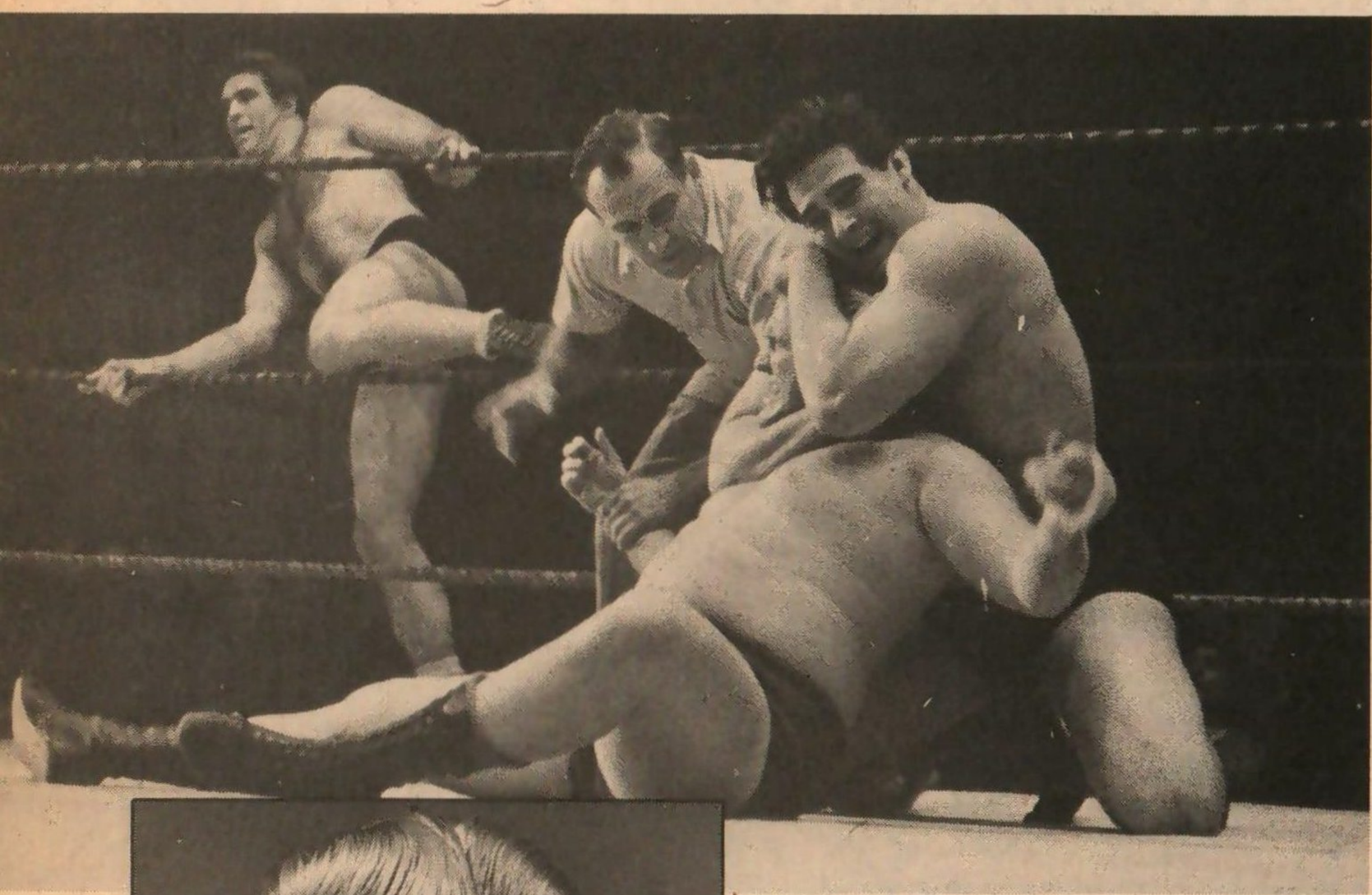
Tag teams, yes, the unforgettable, colorful tag teams. The Fabulous Kangaroos. The jaunty, almost cocky way they wore their native hats and the hardy manner in which they strutted about the ring always impressed me. Loved to watch them. And the Bastien Brothers. Or the fiendish duo of Skull Murphy and Brute Bernard.

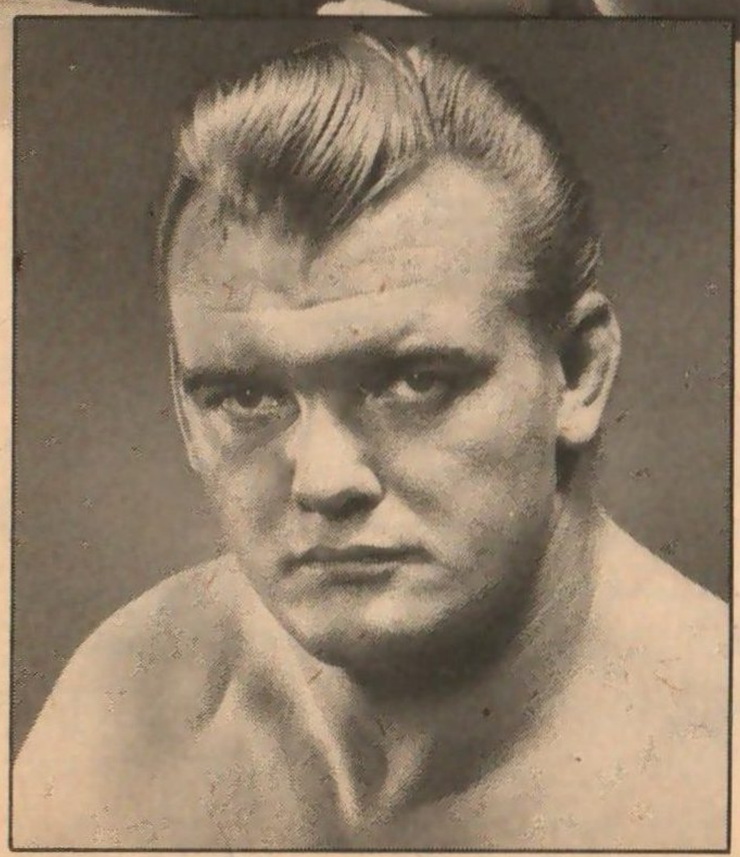
One night Bernard and Murphy were bloody from the tops of their receding foreheads to the tips of their hairy toes. Wasn't their blood, either.

One of the great tag team feuds involved the Graham Brothers and the Bastien Brothers. It was a televised match from Washington, D.C. As usual, Ray Morgan was the television announcer. At this time, the Bastiens were offering 5,000 silver dollars to



The talented Graham Brothers, Jerry and Eddie (above left) were a top tag team in 1961. Merchant Marine Sailor Art Thomas (above right) powered his way into the top of the wrestling hierarchy.





Mark Lewin applies a sleeperhold against Jerry Graham while Don Curtis is ready to rumble (above). Johnny Valentine was a dynamic grappler (left).

anyone who could defeat them. Jerry and Eddie Graham accepted the offer. The money was left in Morgan's protection.

Using a diversion, the Grahams fled the ring, beat up Morgan and stole the loot. Fun guys, those Grahams.

Or Johnny Valentine, speaking of rulebreakers. Valentine and his atomic skull crusher ruined many a wrestler. One night, this drunk came up to me in my room and demanded I sign a petition outlawing Valentine. Patiently, I explained that a journalist cannot be involved in such subjective exercises. Guy got really angry and overturned my cot. Last time I paid three bucks a night in that joint.

Comiskey Park, Chicago, was the scene of a titanic match. At issue was the NWA title. Champion Pat O'Connor accepted Buddy Rogers' vicious taunts and agreed to a title match.

I'd say that was the greatest bout I'd ever seen. Until the Morales-Sammartino match at Shea Stadium in '72, that Rogers-O'Connor match drew the largest wrestling crowd in history.

Nature Boy Buddy Rogers was perhaps the greatest rulebreaking champion ever. A direct reflection of his personality. Along with dozens of reporters, I crowded into the new champ's locker room after that Patterson bout. Arrogant and callous, Rogers fired snappy answers for nearly half an hour. Only one question extracted a flood of words. I asked Rogers to rate himself.

Hell, I just wanted to use up the last 20 minutes of my tape recorder. □

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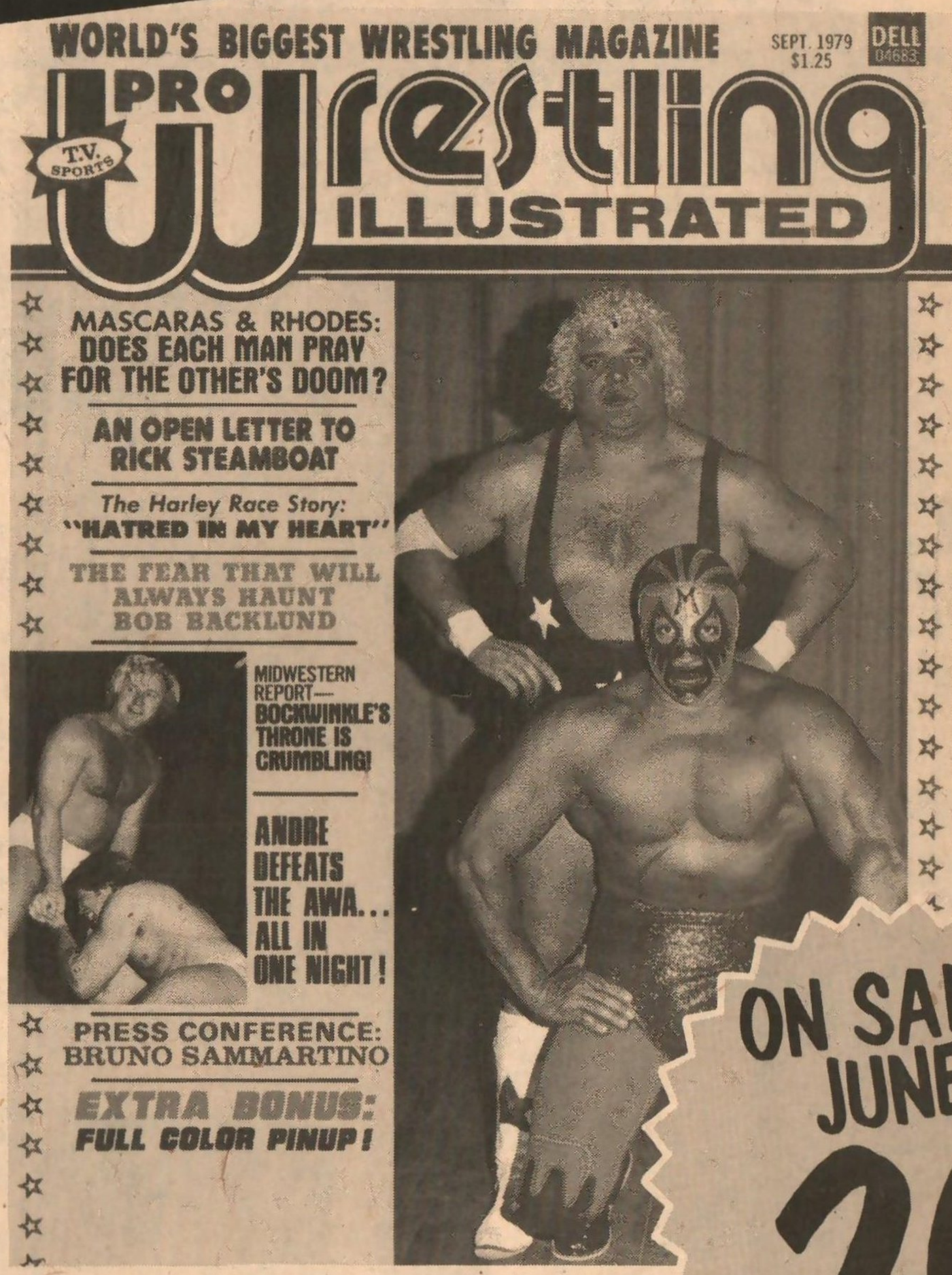
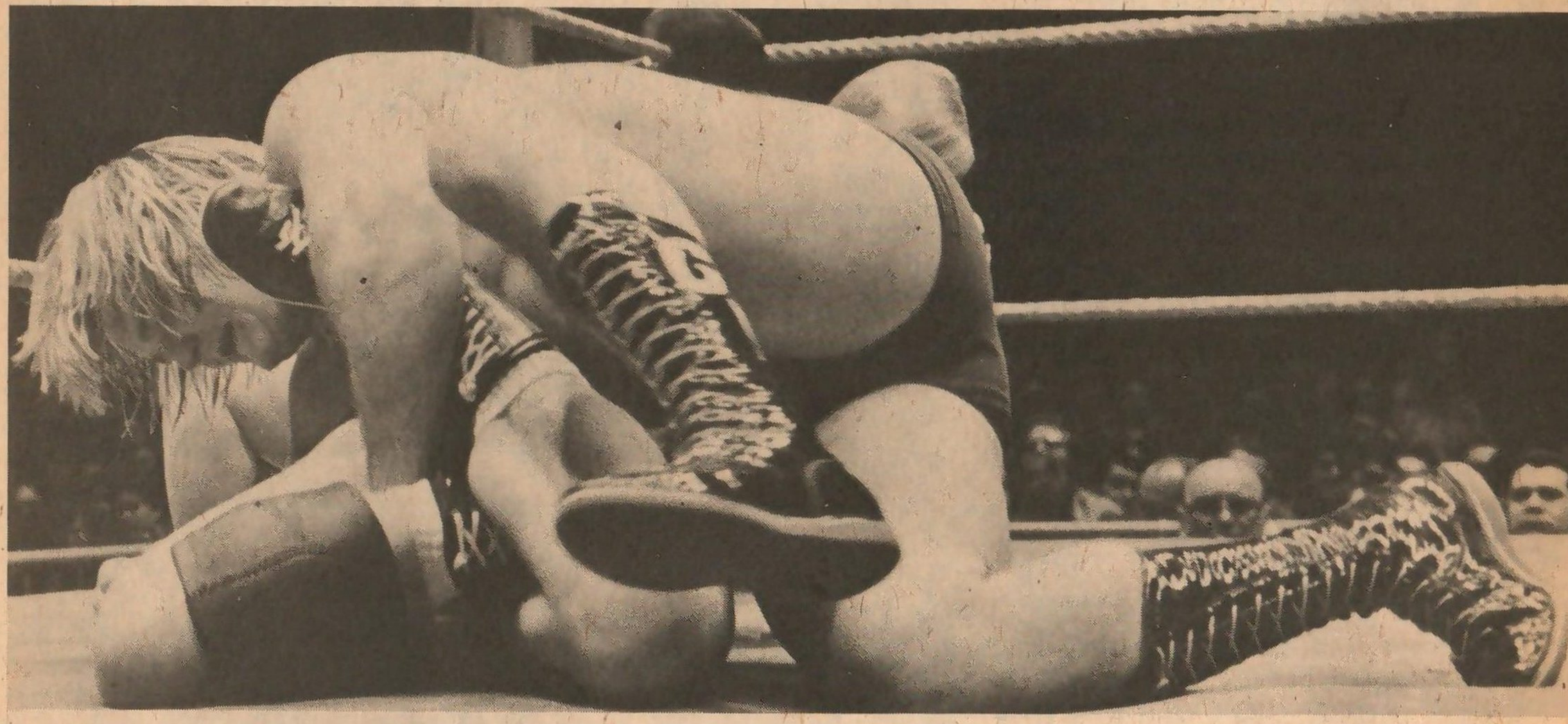


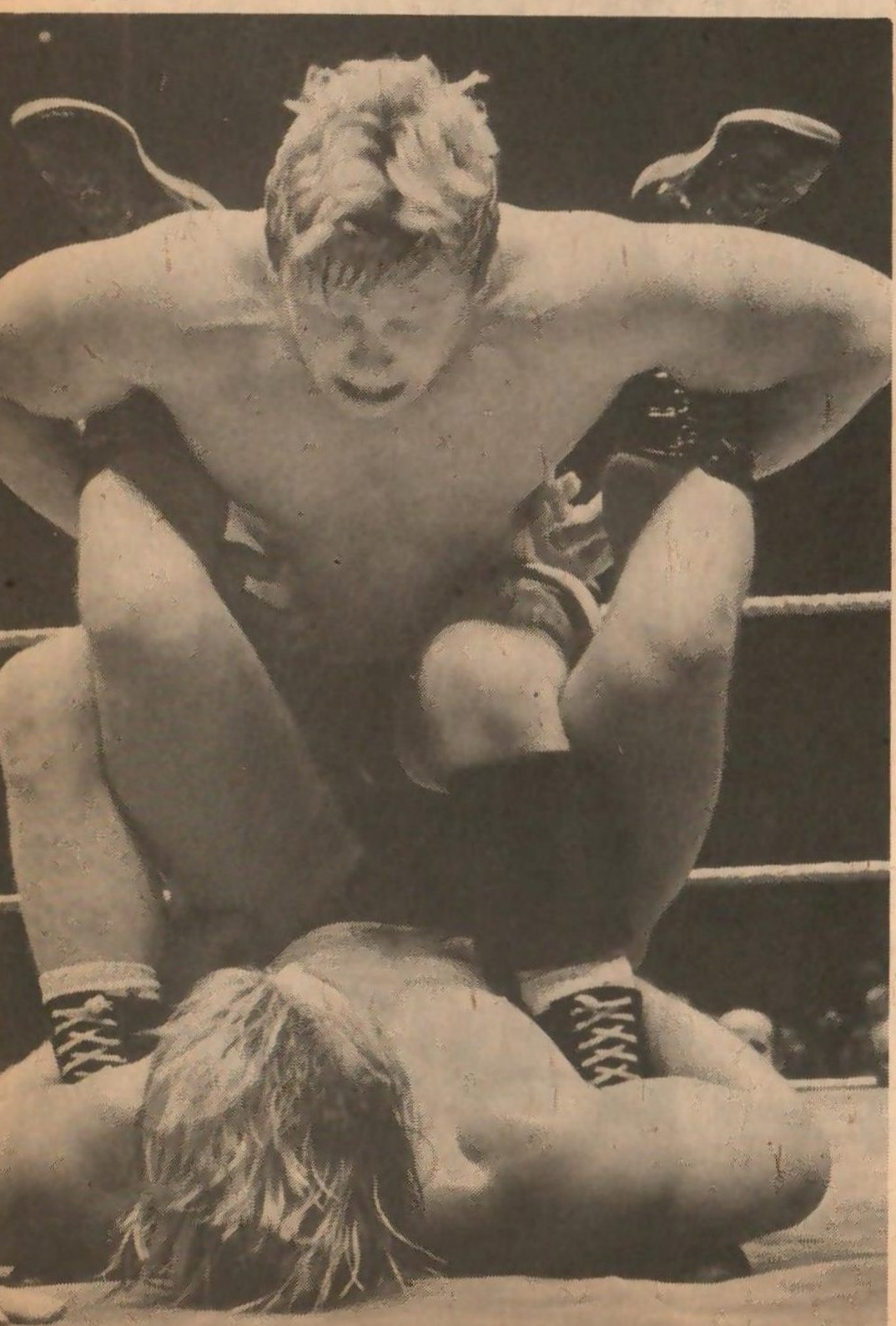

ON SALE JUNE 26th

*GET TO YOUR NEWSSTAND EARLY ON JUNE 26. THIS MAGAZINE IS GUARANTEED TO BE A SELLOUT!*

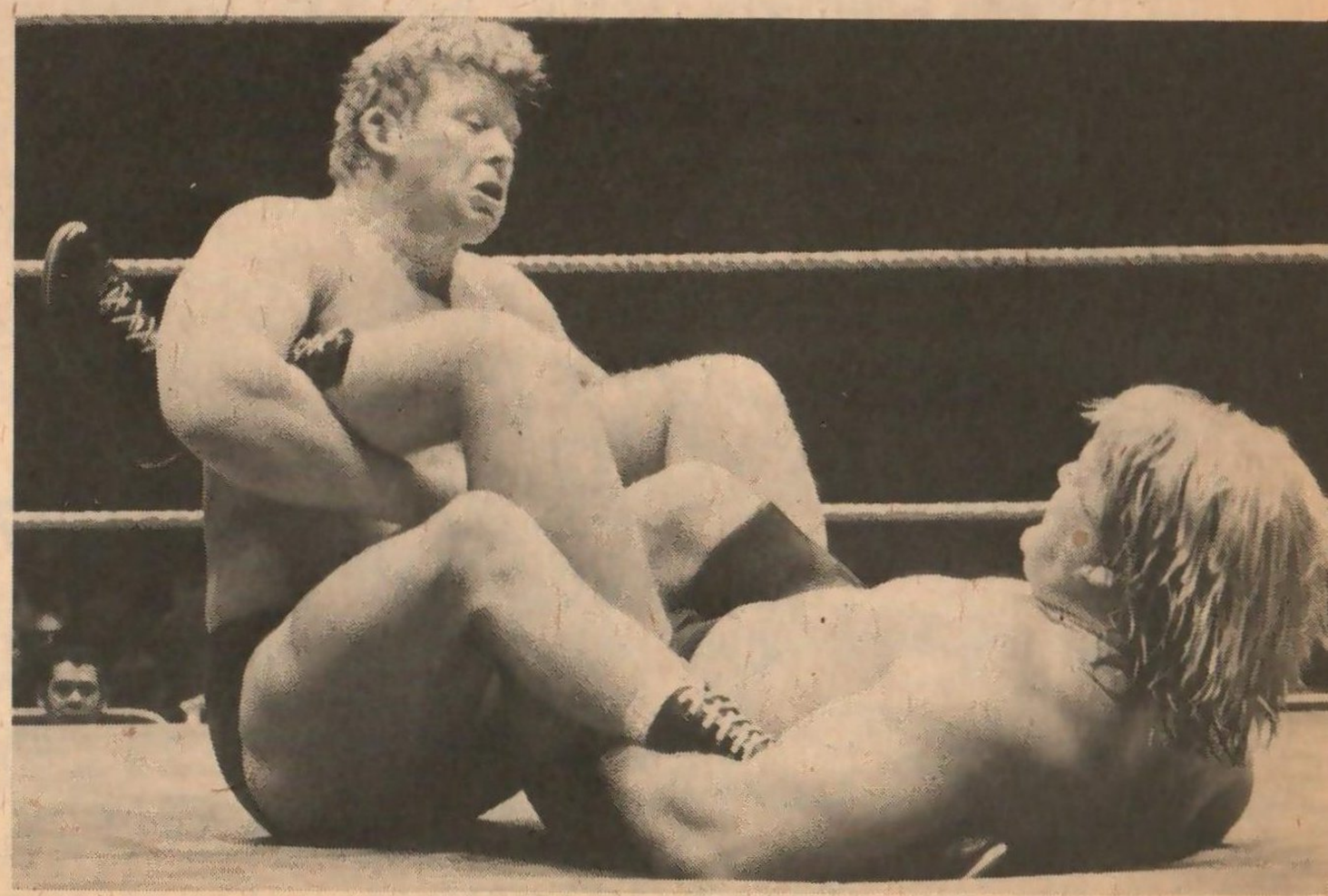
# 72 GIANT PAGES OF WRESTLING EXCITEMENT

# CAN BOB BACKLUND MATCH AGAINST GREG VALENTINE?



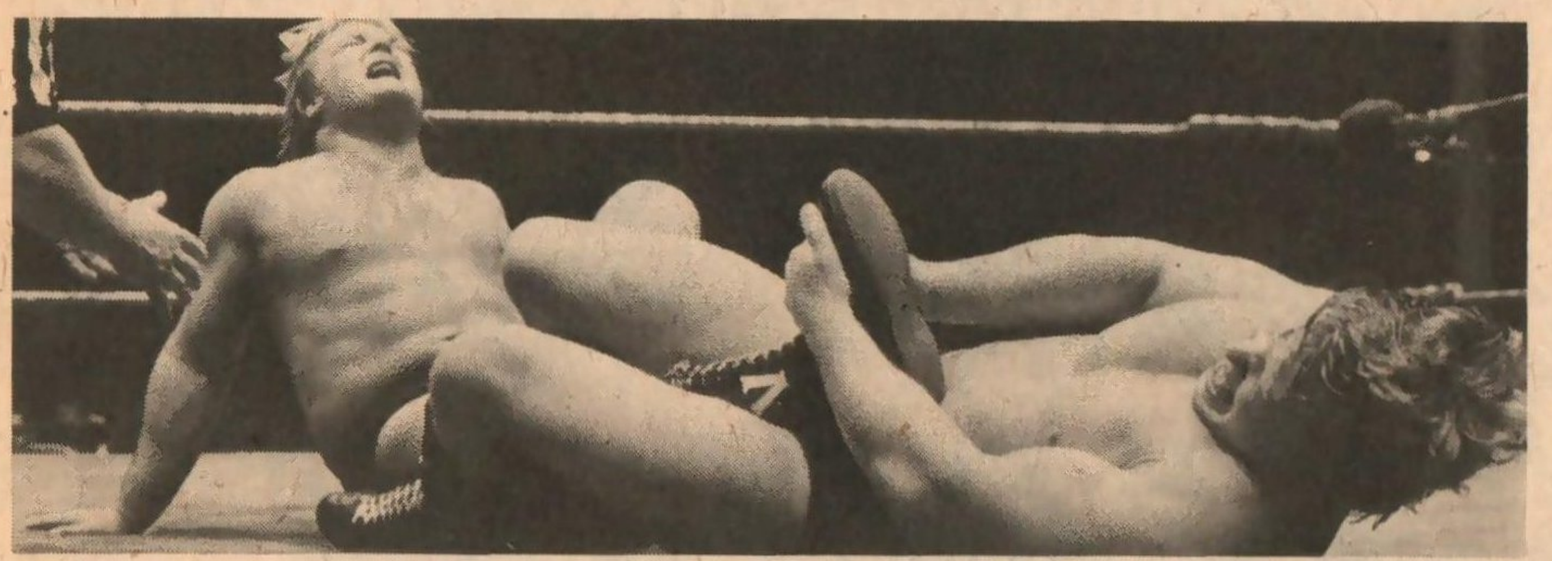


WWF champion Bob Backlund locks challenger Greg Valentine on the mat with a leglock (left). Always directing his attack on Backlund's legs, Valentine takes the advantage on the canvas (above). Backlund has Valentine trapped on the mat (below). An effective toehold has the champ in tremendous pain (opposite top). Somehow reversing Valentine's dreaded figure-four leglock, Backlund lets Greg know how it feels (right). Unable to free his mind of Valentine's hideous image, Backlund suffers terrible mental anguish.



# SURVIVE ANOTHER

**Like a mirror-image that will never vanish, Bob Backlund sees the familiar face of challenger Greg Valentine. While Valentine can be combatted in the squared circle, Backlund is helpless in his mental fight against his arch-enemy. And a helpless champion is a doomed champion**



WHEN BOB BACKLUND looks at Greg Valentine, he stares at a mutated mirror image. Both are about the same age. Both are solidly built. Both having astonishing quickness.

That's why Backlund doesn't dismiss Valentine's threat to his WWF title with a contemptuous shrug. A pained wince forms furrows in the young champ's face when Valentine is mentioned. He doesn't like him.

But the reasons are not so apparent.

"For the grace of God, he could be me," Backlund responded sharply. Quickly apologetic, Backlund thoughtfully studied his fingernails before returning to the subject.

"There is some *physical* resemblance, I guess," Backlund said reluctantly. "We're the same age or thereabouts and we both maintain our bodies.

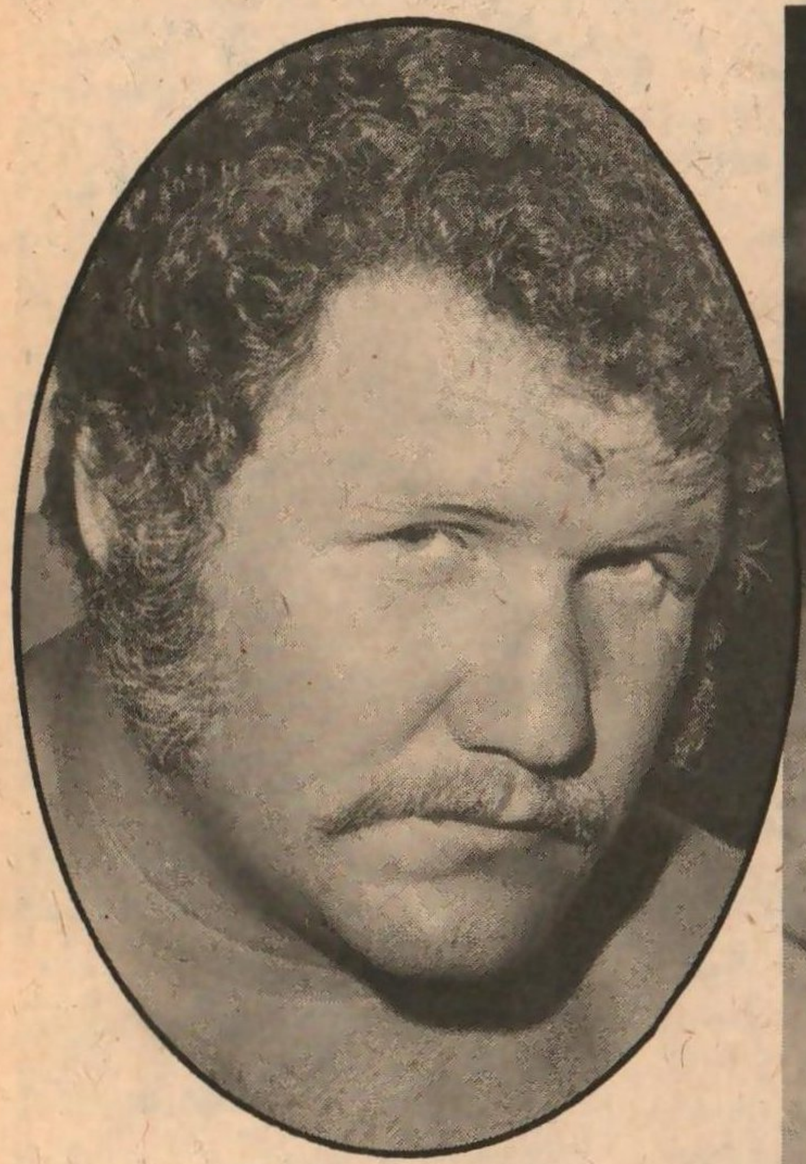
"But there the similarity ends," Backlund said severely. Turning away, Backlund contemplated some dark spot in his locker. Sighing, he returned to the questions.

"He doesn't scare me. Why? Because I'm better than he is, that's why."

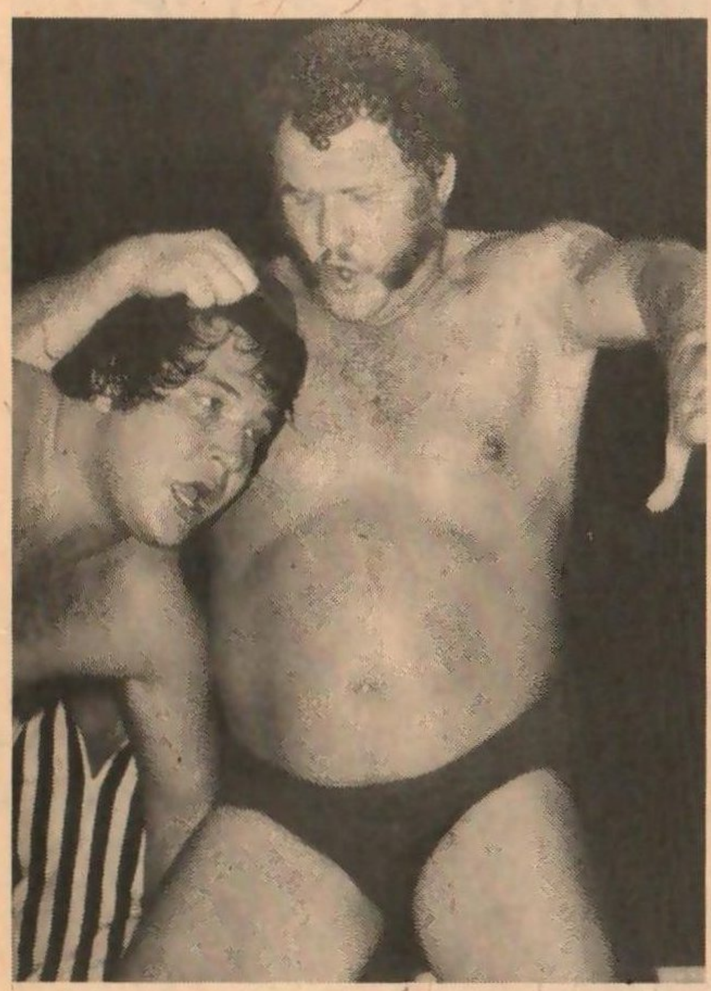
An uncharacteristic edge fills Backlund's voice when discussing Valentine. Mention other rulebreakers and Backlund exhibits contempt and bemusement. But there is little frivolous emotion or steely hate concerning Valentine.

*(Continued on page 46)*

# HARLEY RACE V



*[NWA Champion]*



# THE MOST
# MATCH TI

IN THE LAST two years, only one man owns a pinfall victory over NWA champion Harley Race. That man is the reigning WWF North American titlist. He is a handsome young man, the sort of grappler the WWF would like to grow in some humanoid greenhouse.

Good-looking, talented wrestlers are a premium. Especially those who have pinned Race.

But more is at stake than gloating. Ted DiBiase, who is *only* North American champ, once pinned Harley Race. Imagine what he would do against Bob Backlund?

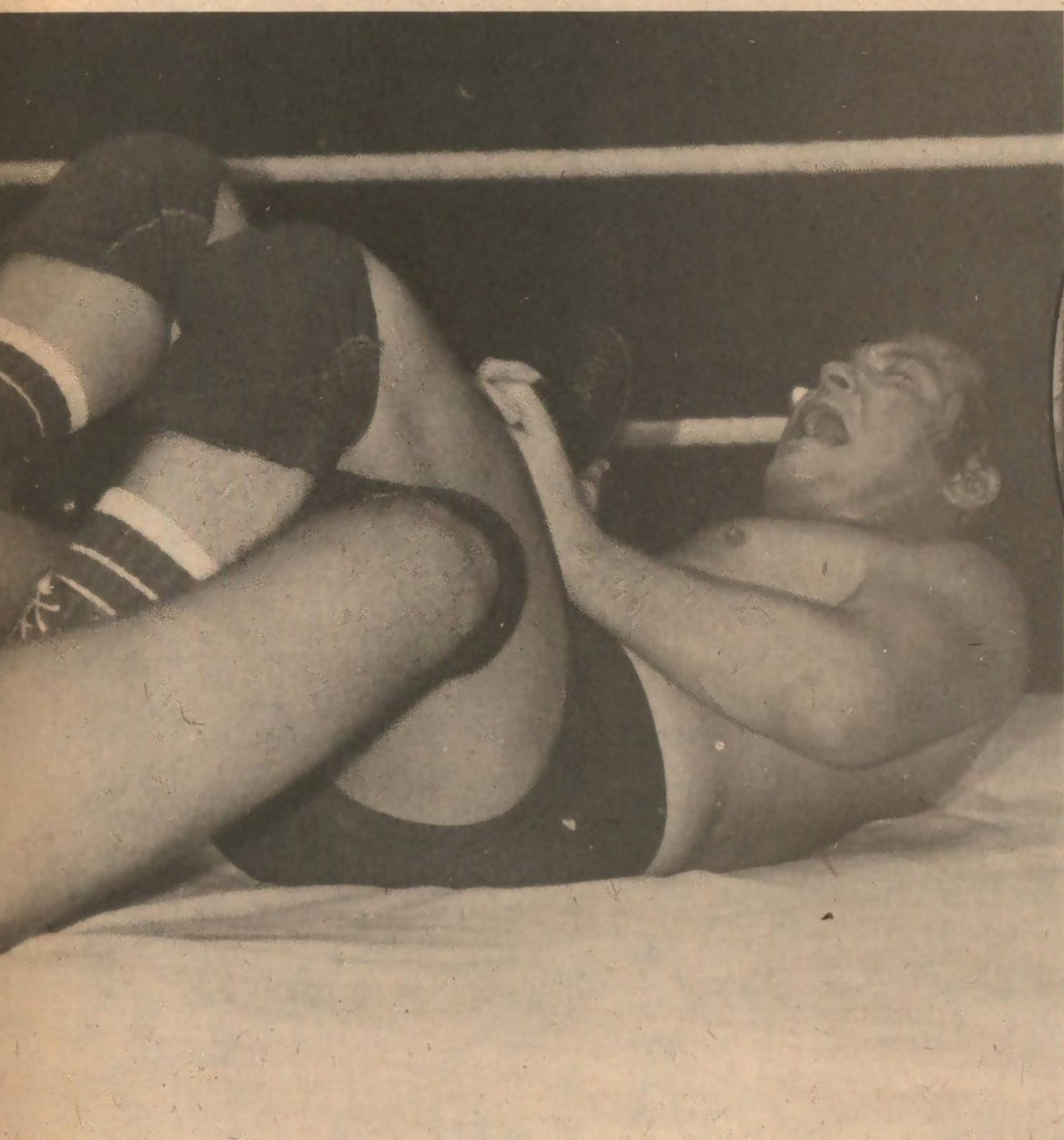
"Crazy logic," muttered Backlund's manager, Arnold Skoaland.

And if the North American champ could pin the NWA champ, imagine what the *WWF* champion would do against Race!

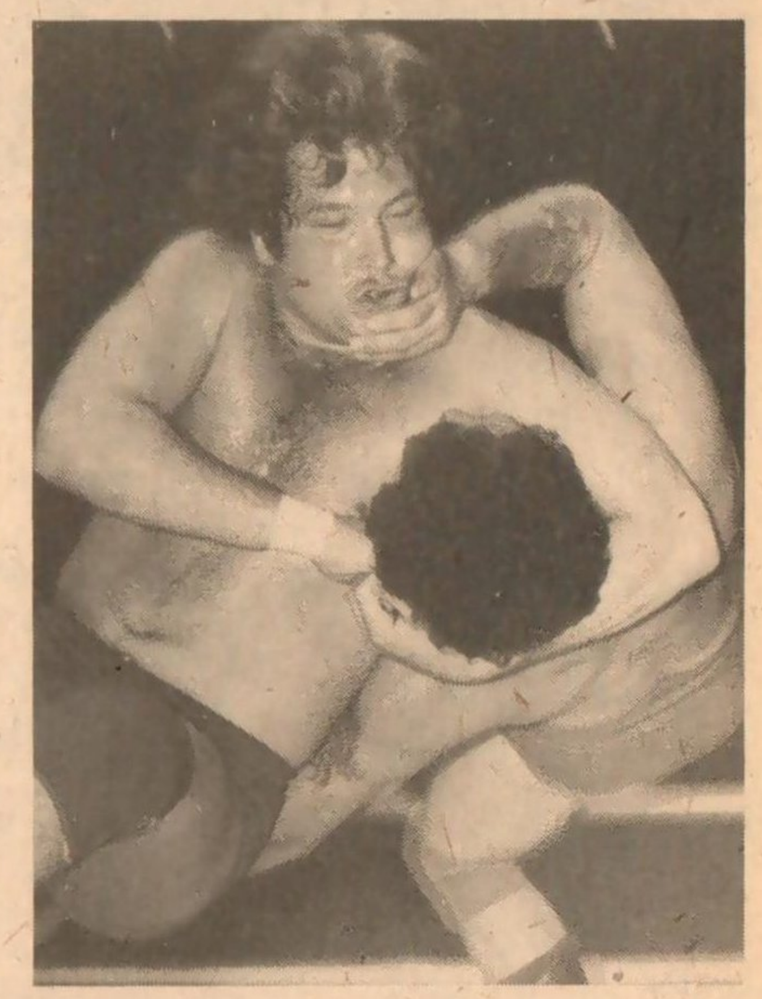
"Let him try," snarled Race.

Thus, DiBiase was more than a representative of his title. He

# S. TED DiBIASE



*[WWF North American Champion]*



# *T CRUCIAL IIS YEAR!*

**As champion of the NWA, Harley Race has a long and wide kingdom to protect. As the WWF North American champion, Ted TiBiase represents the very best of his federation. When the two warriors clashed, much more was at stake than simple wins and losses**

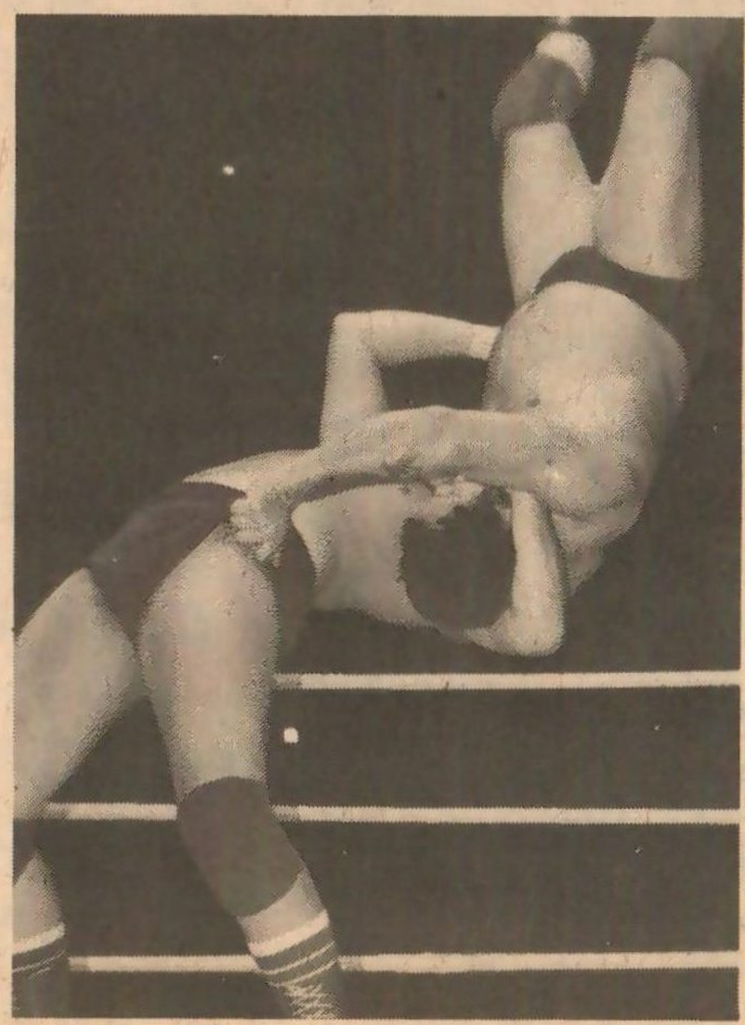
represented the entire WWF, from Bob Backlund, through Bulldog Brower. Race embodied the flesh and soul of such opposite grapplers as Mike Graham and Bruiser Brodie.

Pride and prestige were the prizes as they climbed into the squared circle. For Race, this match had to prove that the pinfall was a fluke. For the NWA, this match had to prove that their champion was far superior than a top WWF contender.

DiBiase also had a lot to prove. Shortly after he pinned Race, he came East and captured the North American title. Talk has begun that he is the heir apparent to the WWF title, assuming he can defeat Backlund.

And the WWF wanted to show their southern brothers which was the top association in the land.

**DiBiase demonstrates unique agility by continuing to apply his maneuver (above). The WWF North American champ suplexes a stunned Harley Race (below).**



All things considered, this was a mini-Super Bowl of wrestling. Much was at stake.

Entering the bout, Race had one sizable advantage: the rules. Since they were wrestling in the NWA region, that association's rules applied. Little did the contestants realize how crucial the rules would prove to be.

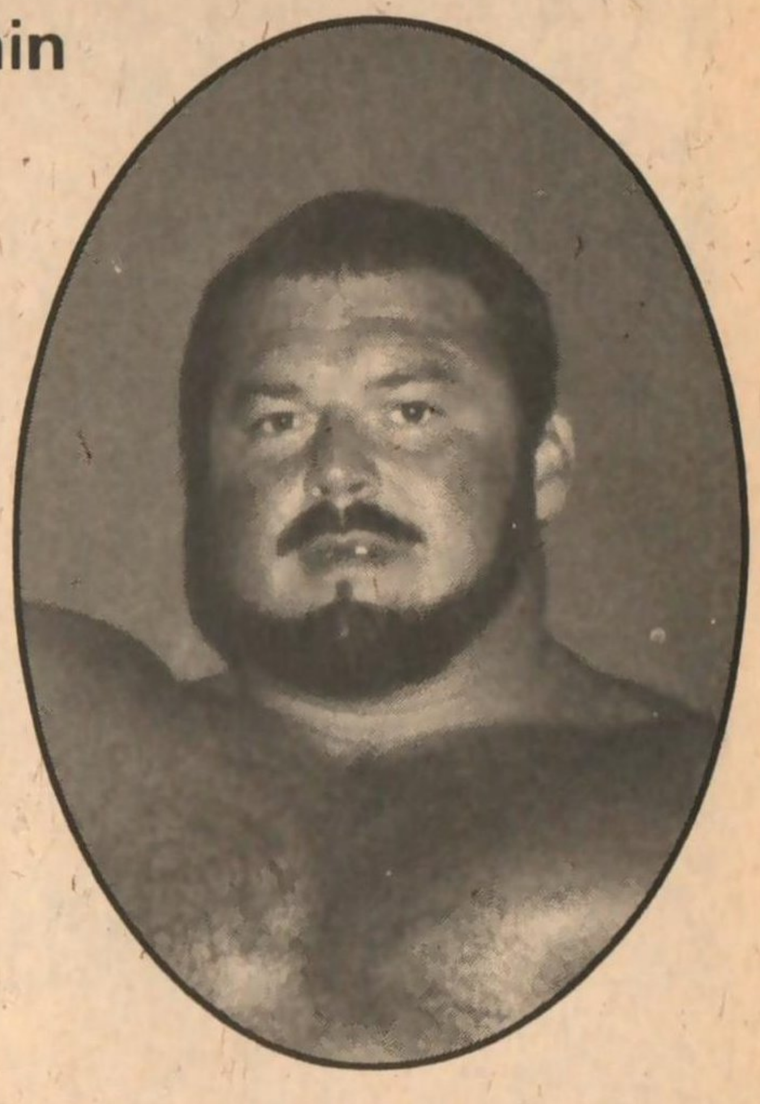
Their style were as different as water and fire. Race, the gnarled, tough veteran. DiBiase, the fluid, boyish youngster. Either Race would impart the meaning of ring life to the young man, or DiBiase would teach the shrewd veteran some new and painful tricks.

Intimidation was Race's first weapon.

*(Continued on page 64)*

# IVAN PUTSKI:

**The fire that burns within Ivan Putski cannot be doused with victories or personal accomplishments. As long as traitors like Peter Maivia and Victor Rivera prowl unguarded, Putski will remain trapped inside a living hell. Only vengeance will set him free**



# "DEATH TO TRAITORS LIKE MAIVIA!"

DURING THE FRENCH Revolution, persons alleged to be traitors were beheaded. A method preferred by the English in the Thirty Years War was hanging.

Ivan Putski doesn't own a guillotine or a scaffold. He does possess his own methods for dealing with traitors. It is unique in its effectiveness.

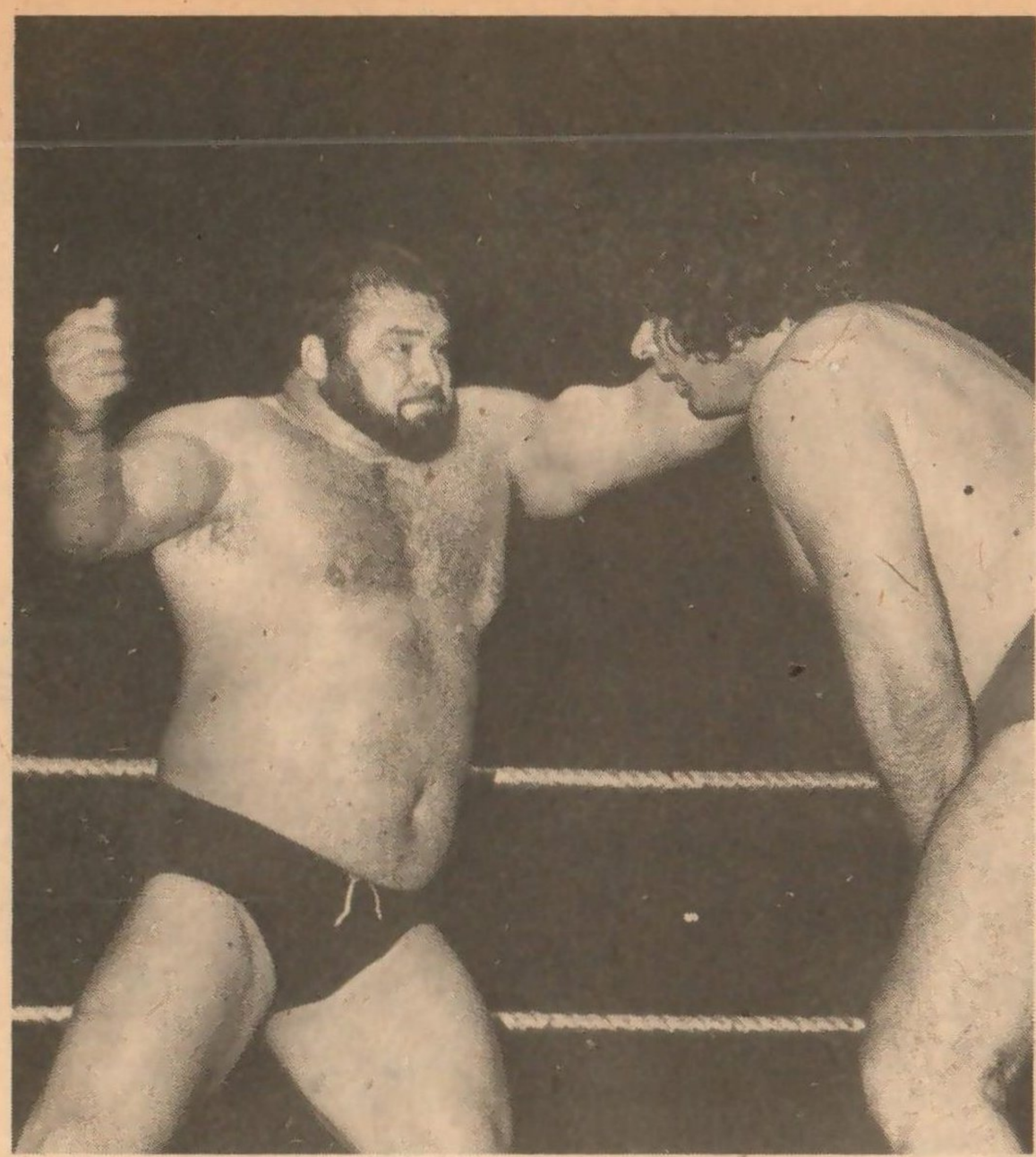
Despite certain handicaps, Putski is not deterred from his mission. Simply his obsession is to remove all traitors from wrestling.

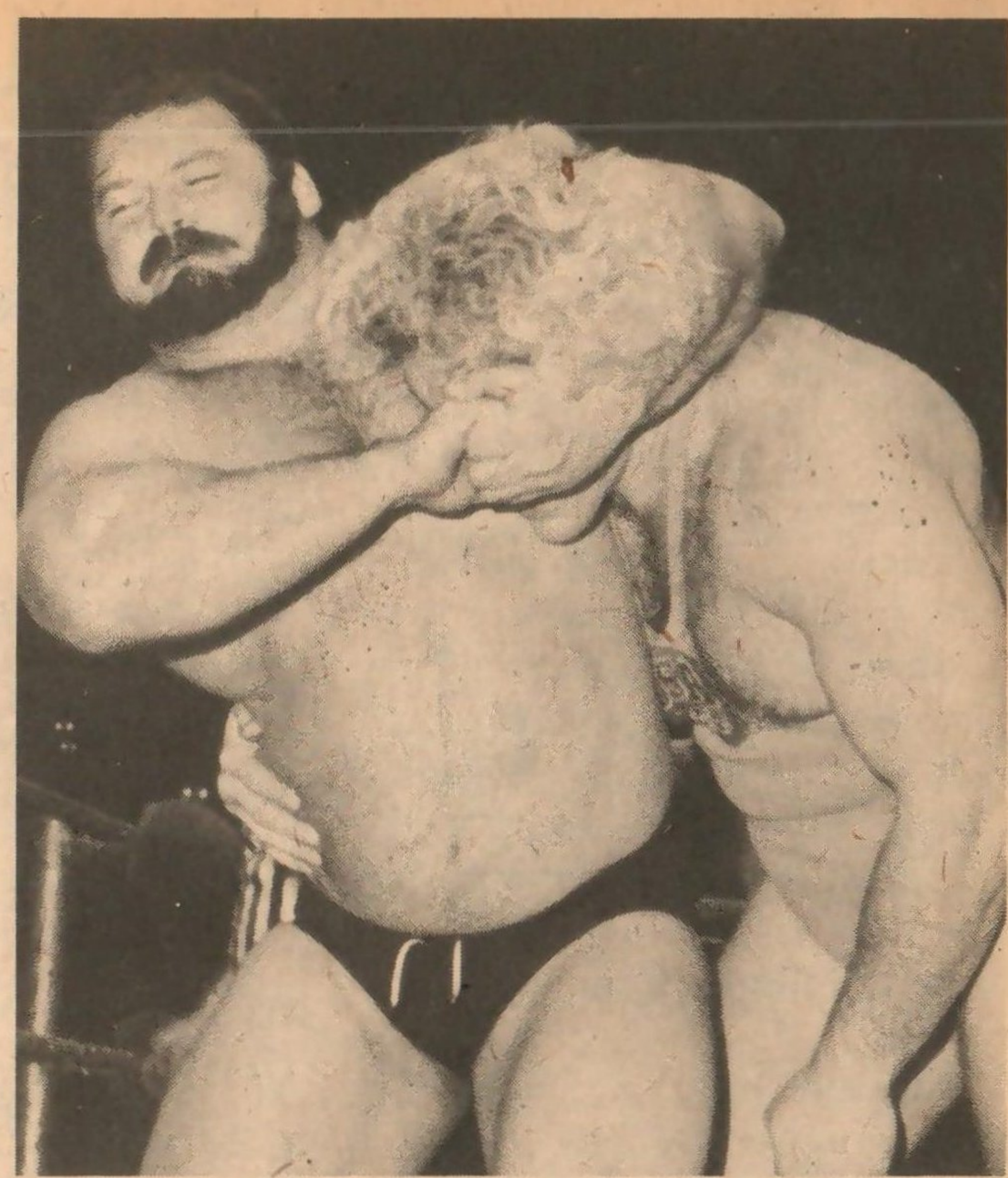
"I hate traitors," snapped Putski. "Betraying your friends and ideals is the lowest thing a man can do. Snakes and rats have higher moral standards than traitors.

"I'm inflexible on this point. I won't compromise. I have resolved to wrestle and destroy every traitor in wrestling," Putski continued. "Nothing nor no one can stop me."

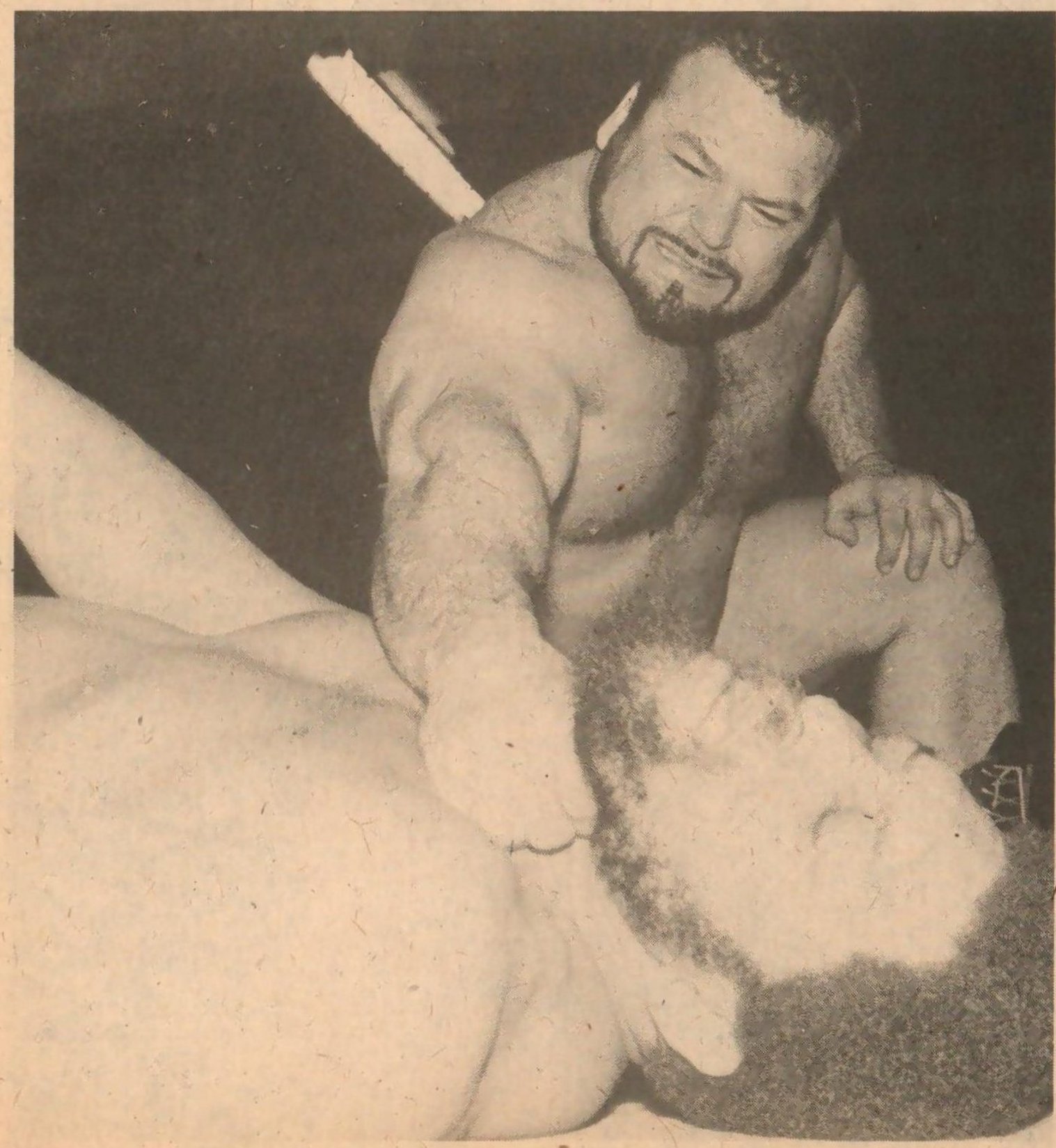
Peter Maivia. Victor Rivera. Spiros Arion. Their names touch

Former scientific star High Chief Peter Maivia headlocks Ivan Putski. The Polish star has declared war on traitors such as Maivia, Victor Rivera and Spiros Arion. He will not rest until the turncoats have paid for their sins.





"The Polish Power" punishes Greek Ironman Spiros Arion (above left). Arion was once a popular scientific star. Ivan headlocks another strongman, Ken Patera (above right). Ernie Ladd is helpless as Putski chokes him (below).



the tongue like sour milk and vinegar. Vile as they are, Putski will not be swayed.

"Yes, even sharing a ring with them sickens me," Putski said, twisting his face in displeasure. "But what choice do I have."

"They must be punished for their crimes. Fan hatred is not enough. Press criticism fails. Even other wrestlers do not deal with the traitors harshly enough," Putski said, hands clenched.

"My mission is to batter the traitors. What more can I say?" he asked spreading his hands.

Nothing further can be said. All that remains is action. Bloody, determined action.

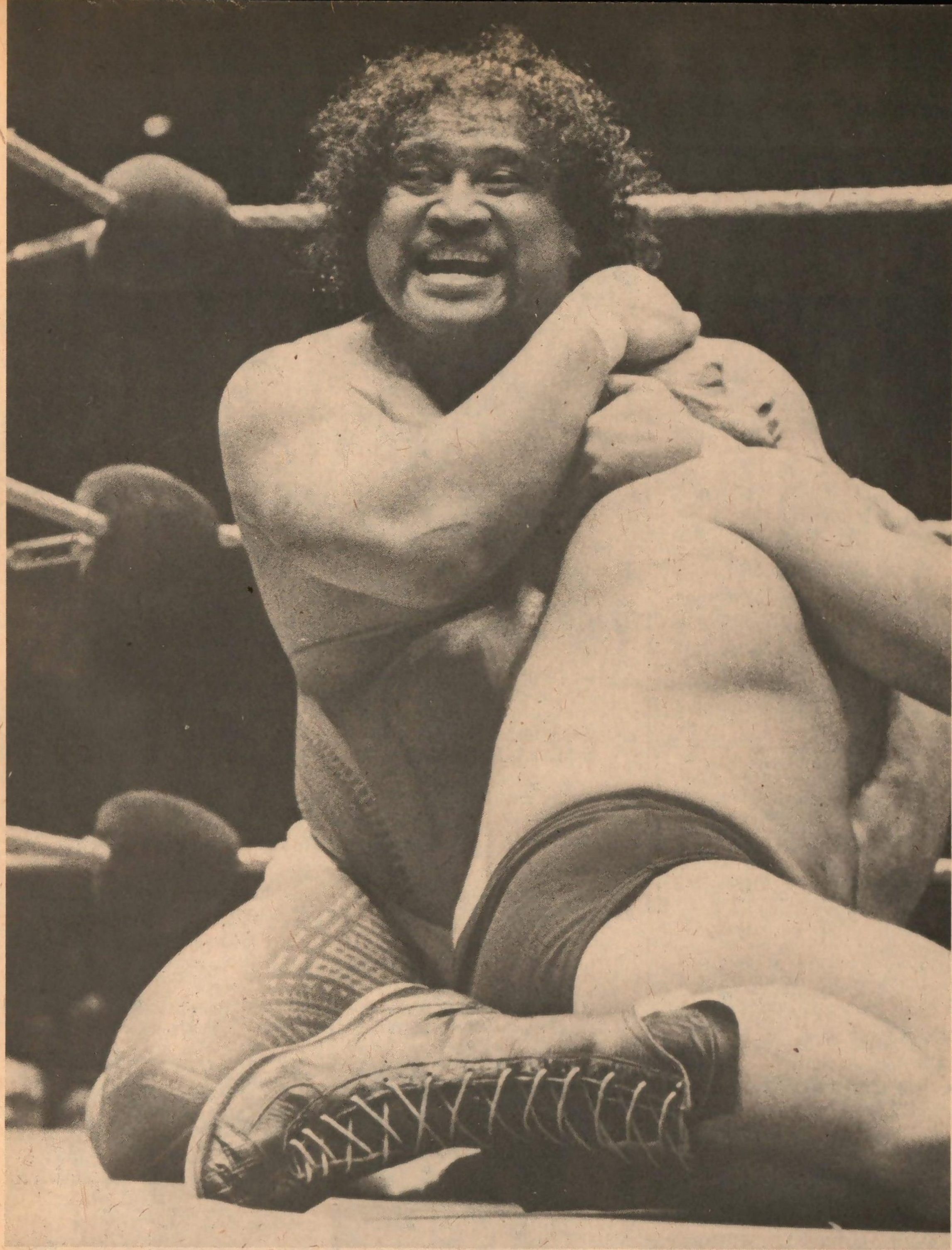
Like the match which pitted Maivia against Putski.

Arrogantly ignoring Putski's threats, Maivia taunted the exponent of "Polish Power."

"Come and get me, you dumb donkey," shouted Maivia prior to the match.

Putski insisted his animalistic behavior was not the result of Maivia's insults, but of his attitude towards traitors.

"Nothing Maivia or any of those low-lifes can say or do will influence me. My mind is made



up," shouted Putski.

A ferocious bout ended when Maivia was disqualified. But victory was hollow for Ivan Putski.

"This isn't the way I wanted to win," muttered a depressed Putski in the dressing room.

It was against Victor Rivera that Putski demonstrated the "way he wants to win," Combining surprising speed and overpowering

*(Continued on page 65)*

**The worst emotional hurt of all occurred when Peter Maivia turned rulebreaker. Maivia seems to enjoy hurting his old friend (above). Putski now considers Maivia a low-life and a louse.**

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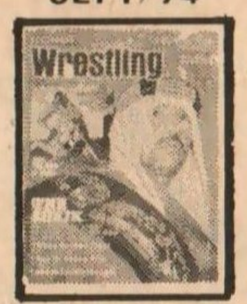
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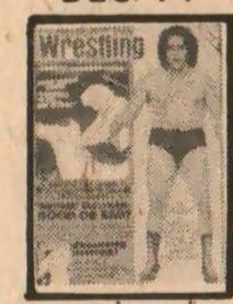
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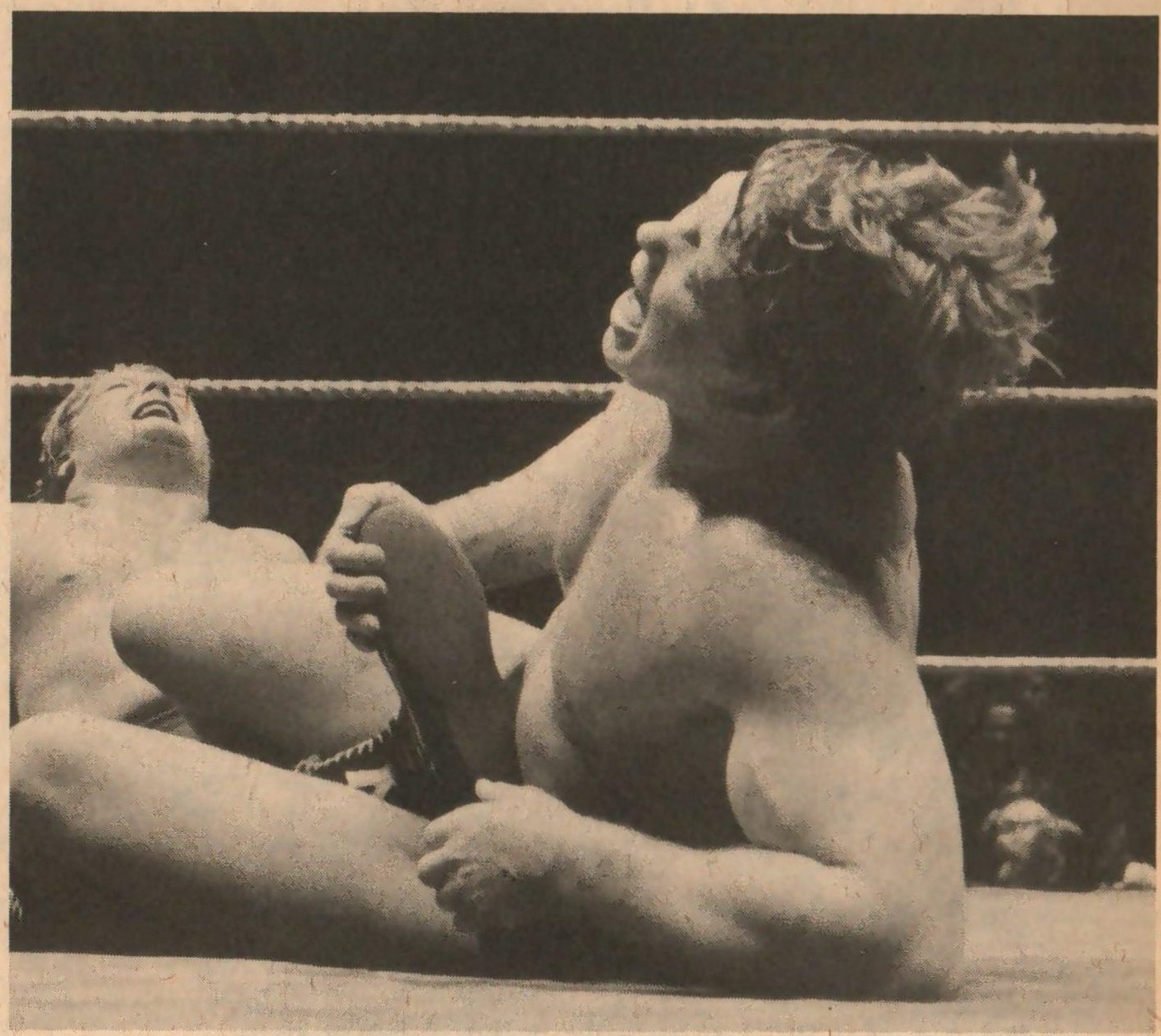
# BOB BACKLUND

*(Continued from Page 39)*



Backlund shows no mercy as he tries to make Valentine submit with his own brand of the figure-four leglock. Valentine has crippled several unfortunate foes with the lethal maneuver, including Chief Jay Strongbow.

Perhaps uneasiness captures the young man's feelings. Though their resemblance is a minor point, Backlund dispells all comparisons.

"Our styles are different," snapped Backlund.

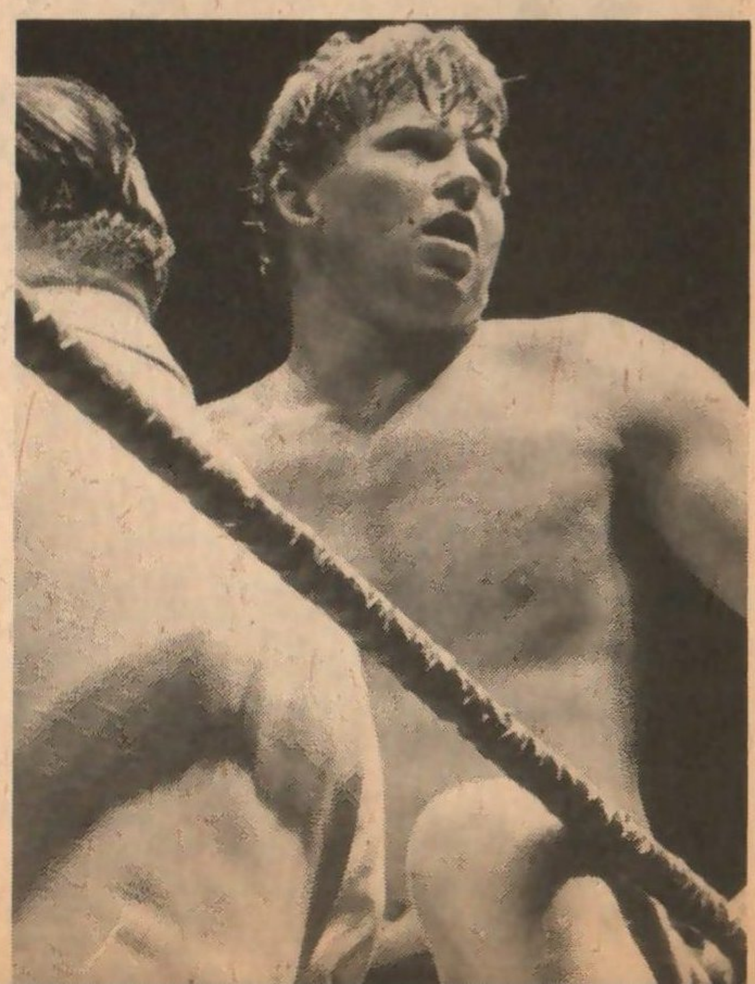
Obviously.

"He hates the fans. I don't. And hurting the opponent is his principle objective. I'll back off if it looks like permanent injury could occur.

"So, so where are we similar, huh?"

At this stage, Backlund is more concerned with the mental anguish associated with wrestling

The referee warns Greg Valentine about his ring behavior (below left). Bob is accompanied by his trusted manager, Arnold Skoaland (below right).



Valentine rather than the possible physical pain.

By now, Valentine's sadistic use of the figure-four leglock is scandalous. Anyone brave, or foolish enough, to climb into the ring with Valentine is vulnerable to permanent disability.

Except Backlund. Or so he insists.

"Valentine's maneuvers don't bother me," said Backlund. "I whipped him once and I can take him again. That's not what bothers me."

Ah, then what does bother you?

Okay. Looking at Backlund makes me realize the thin line between good and evil. If you go through the history of mankind, you'll see how little separated the truly great man, the leaders, and those guys who turned bad.

"You know, the ghetto where two guys grow up. One turns into a priest, the other becomes a killer. All the early Bogart movies had that theme. Same thing applies here.

"Me and Valentine have similar backgrounds, in a way. Looking at Valentine gives me the chills. I could have been him, if not for some luck and the right environment."

Mental anguish can be devastating for a wrestler. Unlike a physical opponent to strike at, mental anguish tears and gnaws, nibbles and drains until you are weakened.

Backlund can triumph over Valentine's evil ways. Maybe. But he must find a way to overcome the emotional torment.

One person is a little skeptical and offers his own subjective opinion about Backlund's dilemma.

"He's afraid of me," shouted Valentine. "What's this, he sees me in him, what's that mean? Anyone who would confuse that ugly pile of dead worms with me is crazy anyway.

"Backlund knows he'll lose to me, so he's laying down this crap as an excuse when he loses. He's a goner, that's all." □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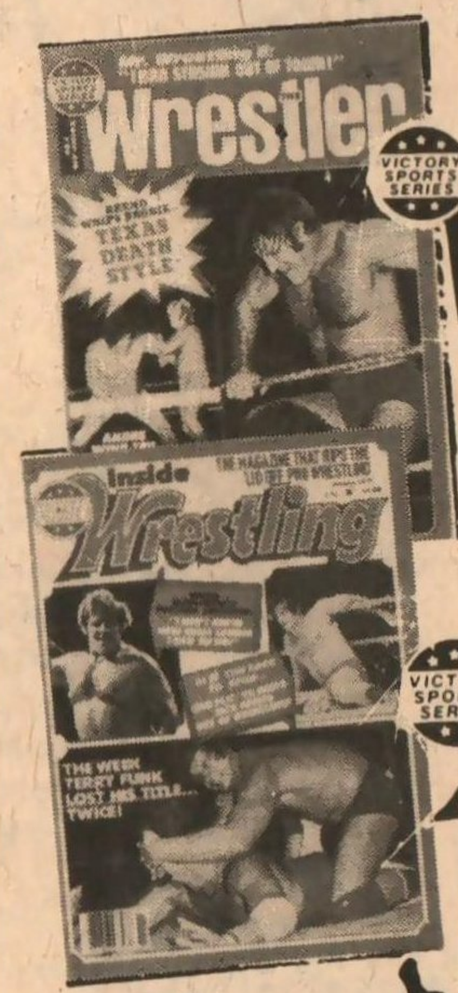


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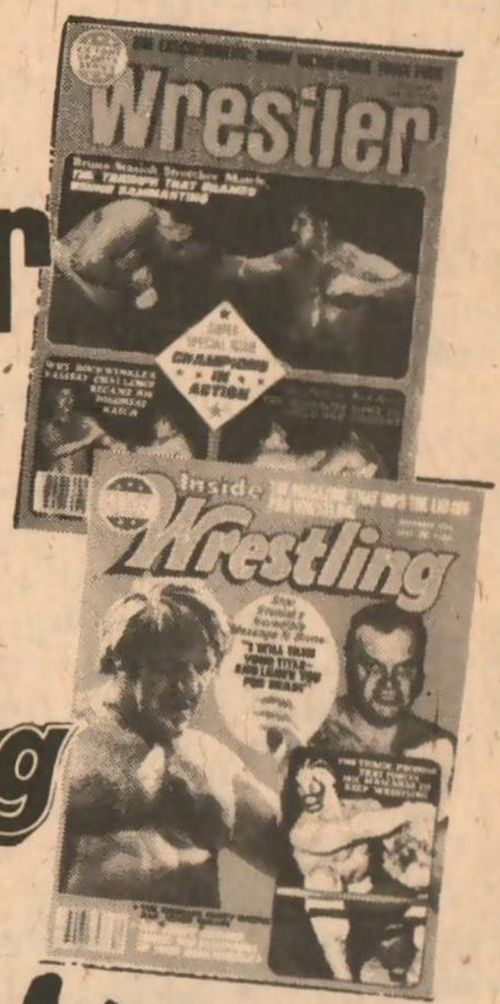


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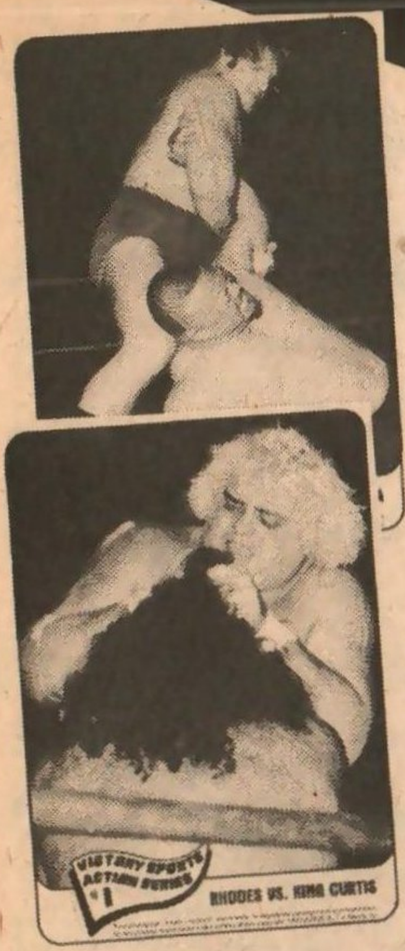


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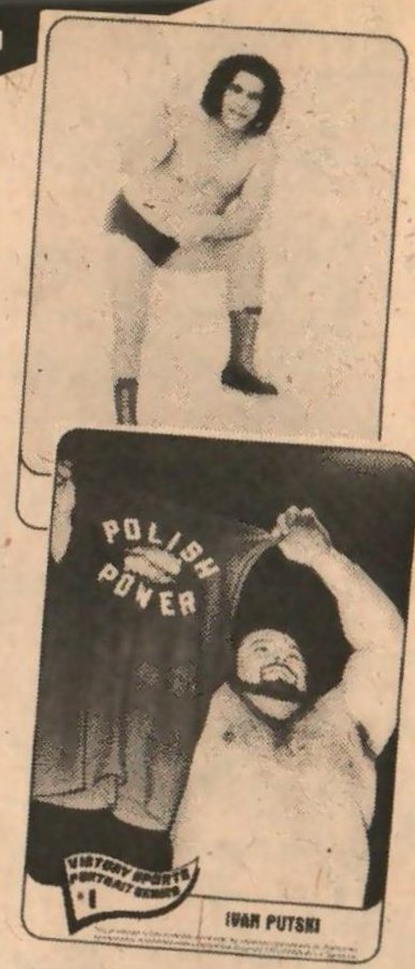


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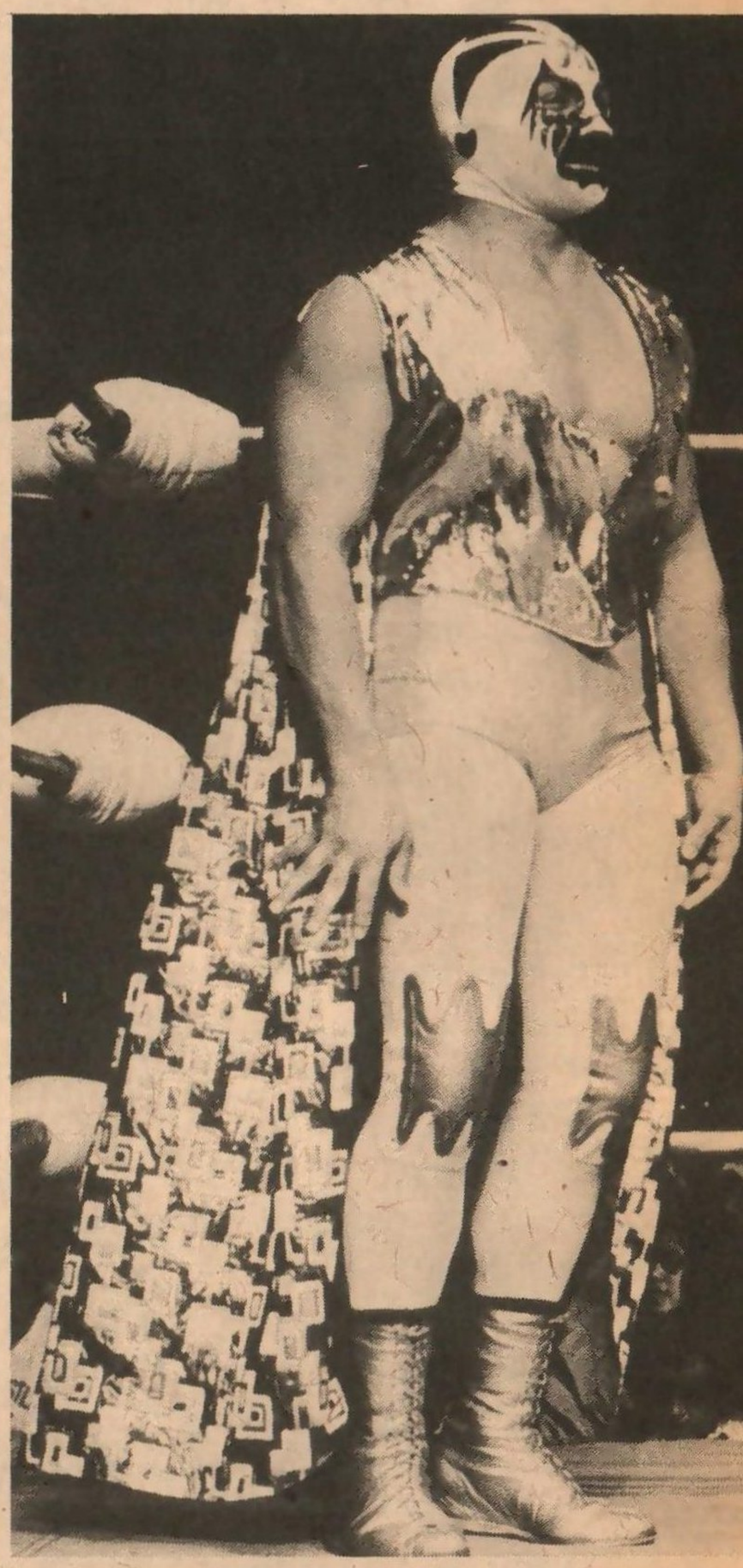
# Reader Report

(Continued from Page 10)



The splendid Mil Mascaras has only grappled against the wild Sheik twice. But their feud is already legendary.

### LIKED OUR FEATURE

The feature in the summer Annual ("Wrestling's Most Brutal Feuds") was tremendous! Before I read about each feud, I jotted down on a piece of paper which feuds I thought were the most brutal. You had listed each feud! Your fine work continues. Let's see more features like "Wrestling's Most Brutal Feuds" in the future.

DEB GREEN
Wolfton, N.Y.

**CAN'T UNDERSTAND FEUDS**

There's one thing I can't understand about scientific wrestlers. I read the feature in the Summer Annual about "Wrestling's Most Brutal Feuds" and it confused me. Every feud consists of bad blood and numerous instances of rulebreaking. Why do the great scientific wrestlers like Mil Mascaras and Wahoo McDaniel get involved? What do they have to gain? All they receive out of these feuds are a lot of scars and stitches. These guys should wake up and quit stooping down to the low depths of the rulebreaker's level. Come on, guys, snap out of it. Before it kills you.

MO RADER
Tuscaloosa, Ala.

**WANTS MASCARAS-SHEIK**

I saw your article on the feud between Mil Mascaras and The Sheik. They happen to be two of my favorite wrestlers. I also think they are two of the most talented men in the history of professional wrestling. I realize they have very different styles. But from what I've read, they have only met twice. This is a shame. Let's get Mascaras and The Sheik together for one more bloodbath. For old-time's sake.

KEVIN CREGAN
Detroit, Mich.

**BAN STEAMBOAT-FLAIR**

I have witnessed Rick Steamboat and Ric Flair in the same squared circle on several occasions. Their encounters must be ceased at once. What goes on in the ring when these enemies make war is unsuited for human consumption. Call in the police. Call in the National Guard. But don't let Steamboat and Flair wrestle each other again. My eyes can't take it and my heart is bound to give out. Please, for the sake of the sport, ban this feud!

JOHN HART
Toronto, Canada □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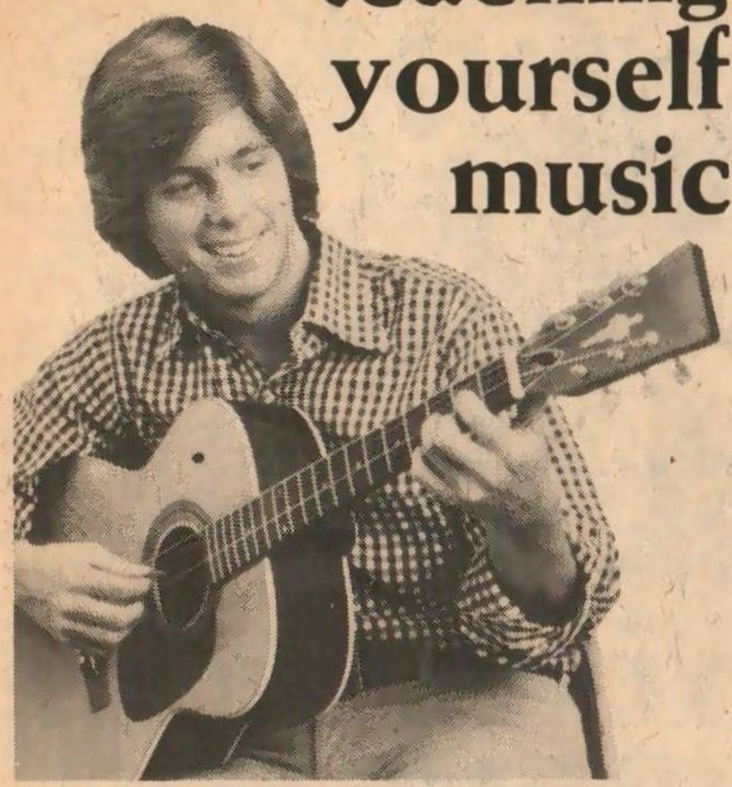

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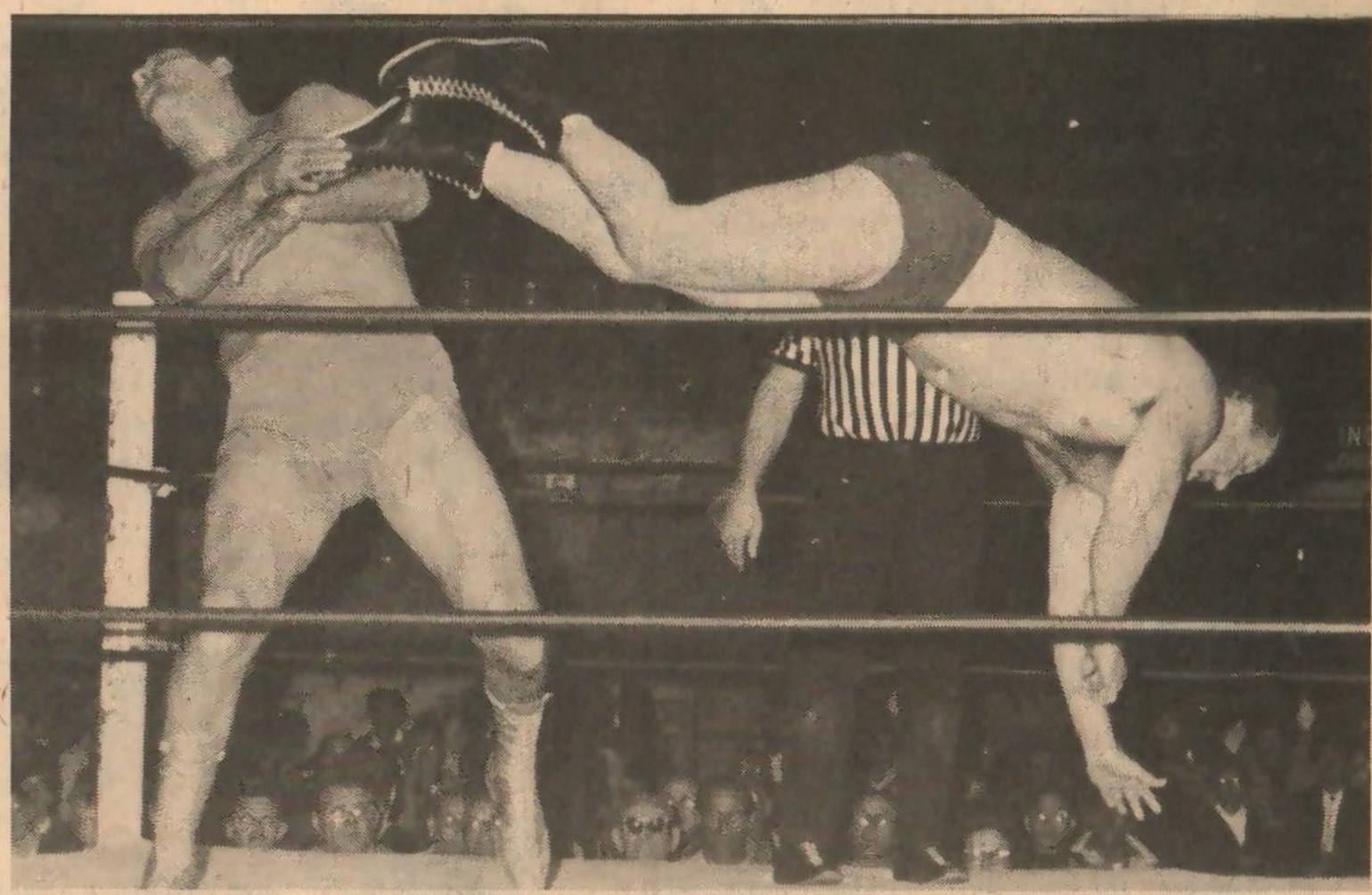
# VERNE GAGNE

*(Continued from Page 23)*



Gagne follows through after dropkicking a stunned Killer Kowalski. Associate Editor Randy Gordon has been a fan of Gagne's since his childhood. Verne's class, talent and determination have earned him the respect of almost every person connected with professional wrestling.

farm outside Minneapolis, Minnesota), he seemed surprised to see a reporter.

"Please, no interviews, not now," said Gagne, looking up from a grappling session with a man seemingly twice his size. "Didn't you guys get the press release? I was trying to save you the trouble of driving 100 miles from the city. I'm training harder for this match against Hennig than I have ever trained before. I'm giving it everything I've got. After the match, buddy, you can fire all the questions you want at me. See you then."

"Please, Verne, give me just 10 minutes . . . five minutes. My boss is not an understanding man. He fires people if they come back without stories. He takes no excuses."

"I'm really sorry," Gagne said. "If I do this for you, I have to do it for everybody. Please try to understand."

"I do, Verne," I said sadly. "Good luck to you." I turned slowly and headed for the door.

"Wait!" shouted Verne. "I would feel really bad if you lost your job because I wouldn't talk to you. Stay and watch my workout. See if you can get some story from my workout. I'll talk to you when I'm through."

The article I wrote on Gagne won a Midwest journalism award. Sandy Richards wanted to give me a big raise, but I quit on him and moved to New York.

The years have worn away nothing but Verne's hairline. The amazing, unparalleled Gagne skills I witnessed as a youth are still toned. I am as enthralled with Gagne today as I was that first breathtaking evening back in my youth.

I can only hope that if I ever have a son, he will grow up to be the man Verne Gagne is. ☐

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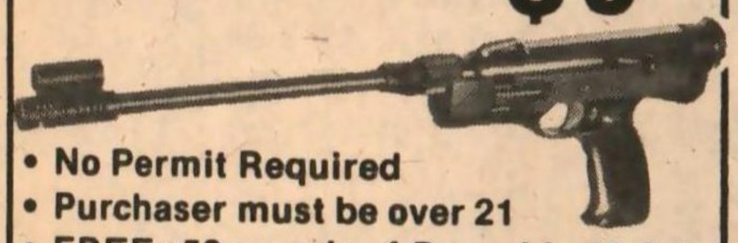

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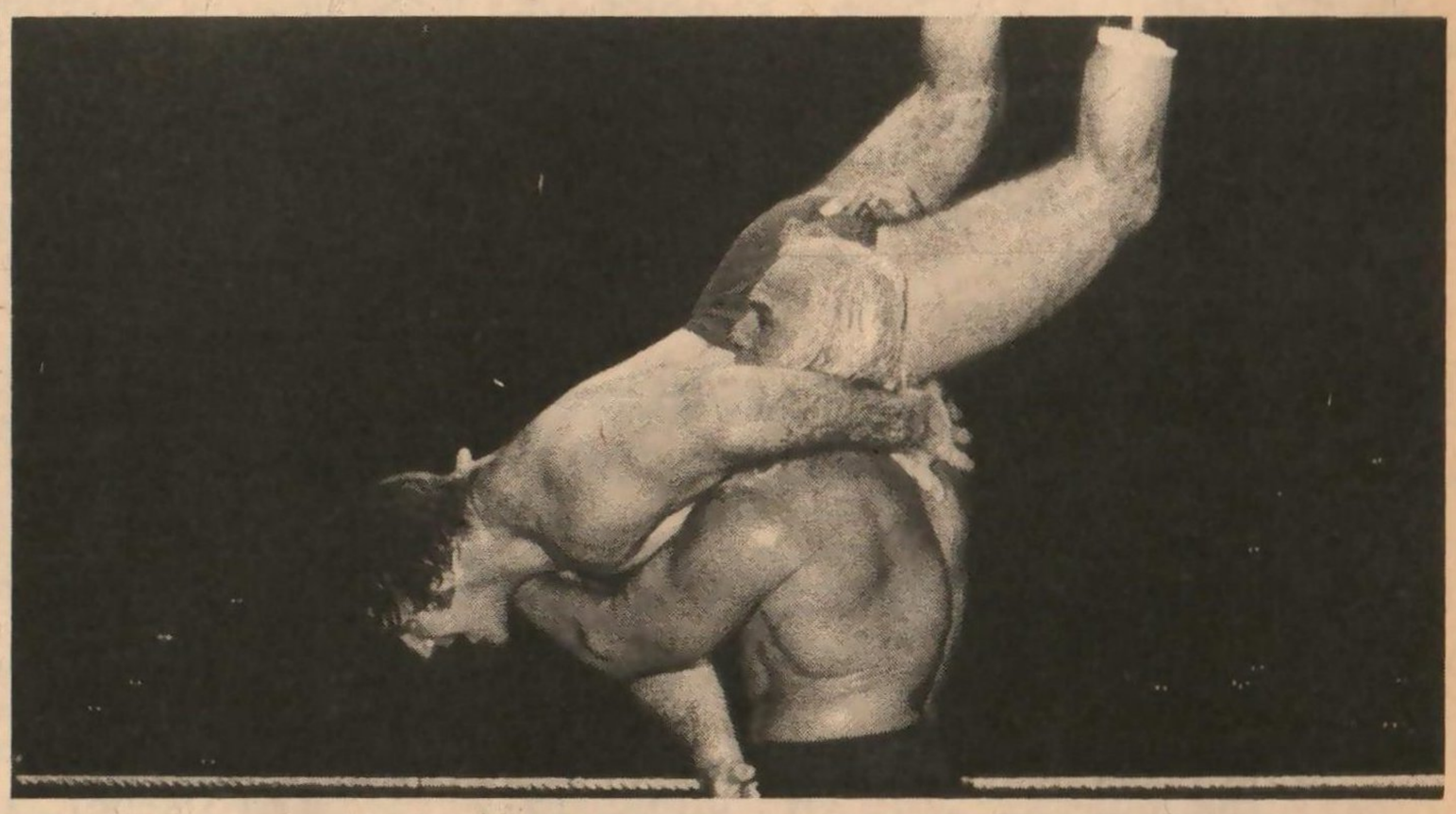
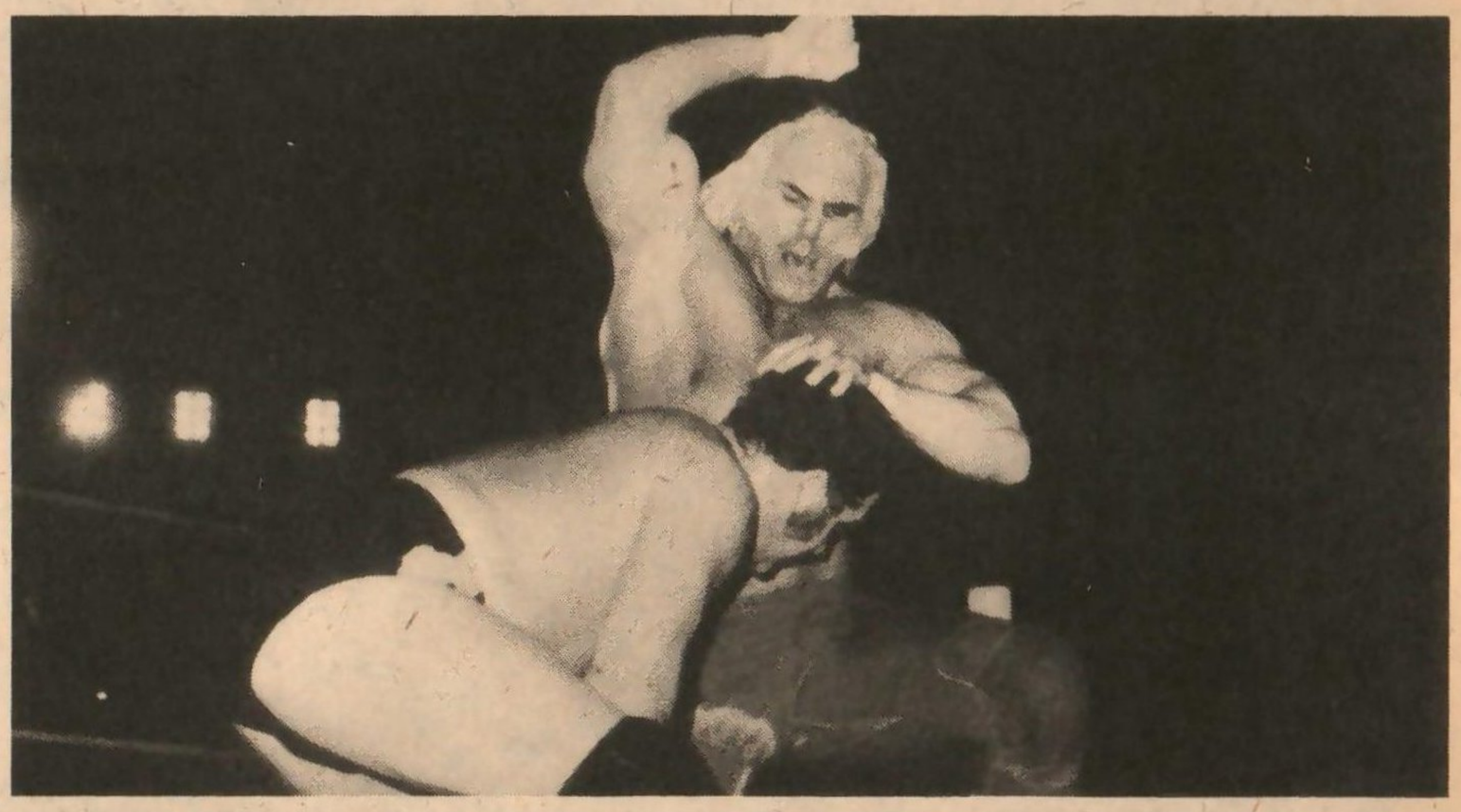
# SUPERSTAR GRAHAM

*(Continued from Page 25)*

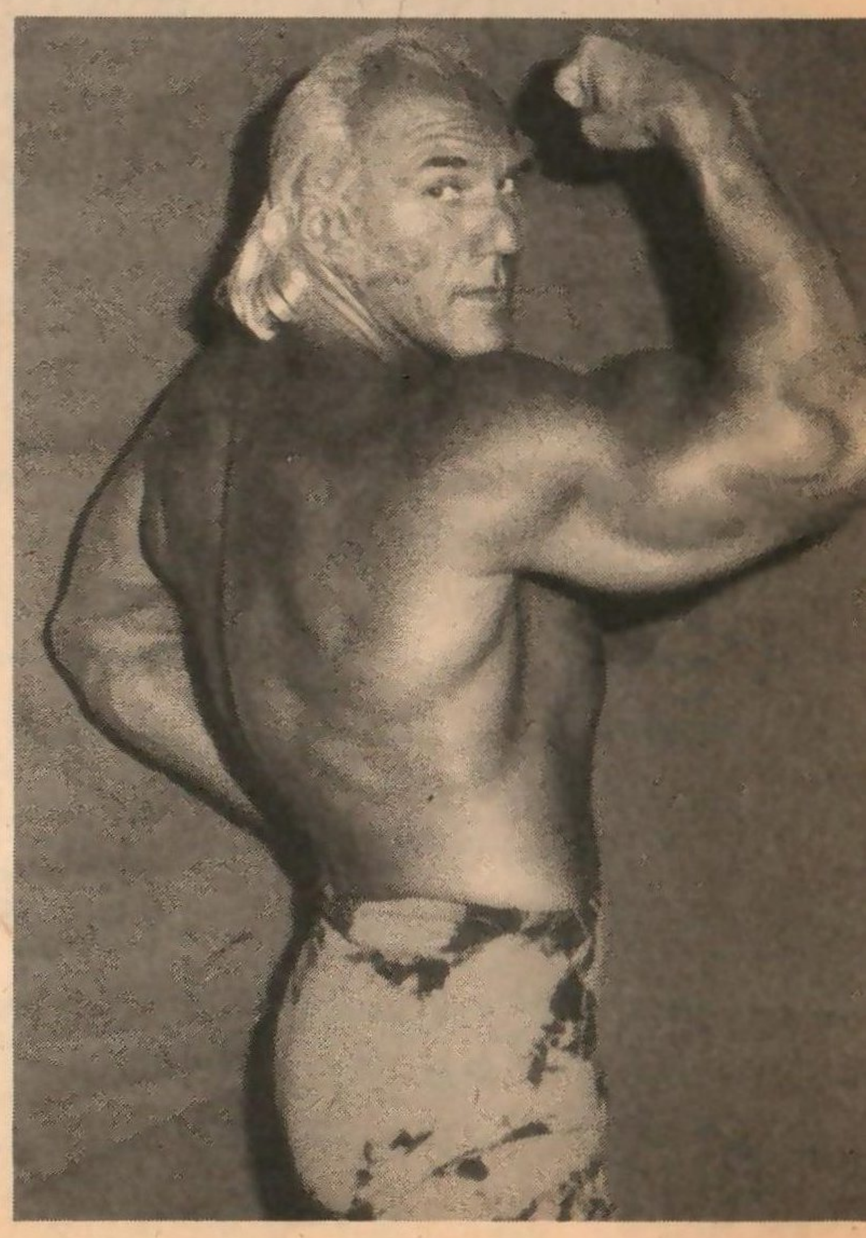




in every kind of match—lumberjack, death, strap, chain—and is still ready for any challenge. The excitement of wrestling still drives him to accept every challenge and meet any foe. Beneath the exterior is the heart of a lion.

The best years of Billy's life are still to come. Not a man to rest on his laurels, Billy wants to keep improving, keep learning and remain at the top of his profession. There are still peaks to reach.

Perhaps there should be some mention of Billy's greatest battles. His series of matches against Dusty Rhodes have already found their way



Superstar Graham excels in all matches. He chokes Dusty Rhodes in a terrifying bullrope match (above). Graham bodyslammed his way to victory over Bruno Sammartino for the WWF title (opposite top). In an unprecedented moment, Graham grappled another champion, NWA king Harley Race (opposite middle). They battled to a draw. Always his own favorite fan, Graham enjoys posing (opposite bottom) as much as he likes wrestling. His physique is awesome.

into the history books. The night he took the title from Bruno Sammartino is another landmark in the sport's past. Some think his greatest achievement was the night, as WWF champion, he wrestled NWA king Harley Race. Never before had the two titles been on the line in the same bout. But Billy is a man who makes the rules, not follows them.

I don't think there's any "greatest" match or even series of bouts. His greatness lies in the sum total of his career. It is unequalled in our lifetime.

It is an honor and privilege to watch him wrestle. □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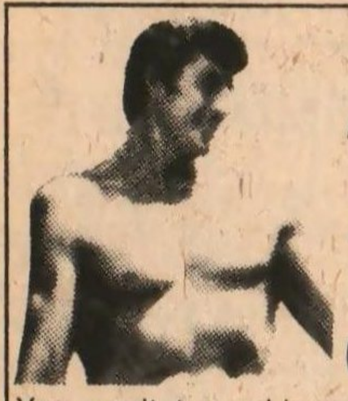

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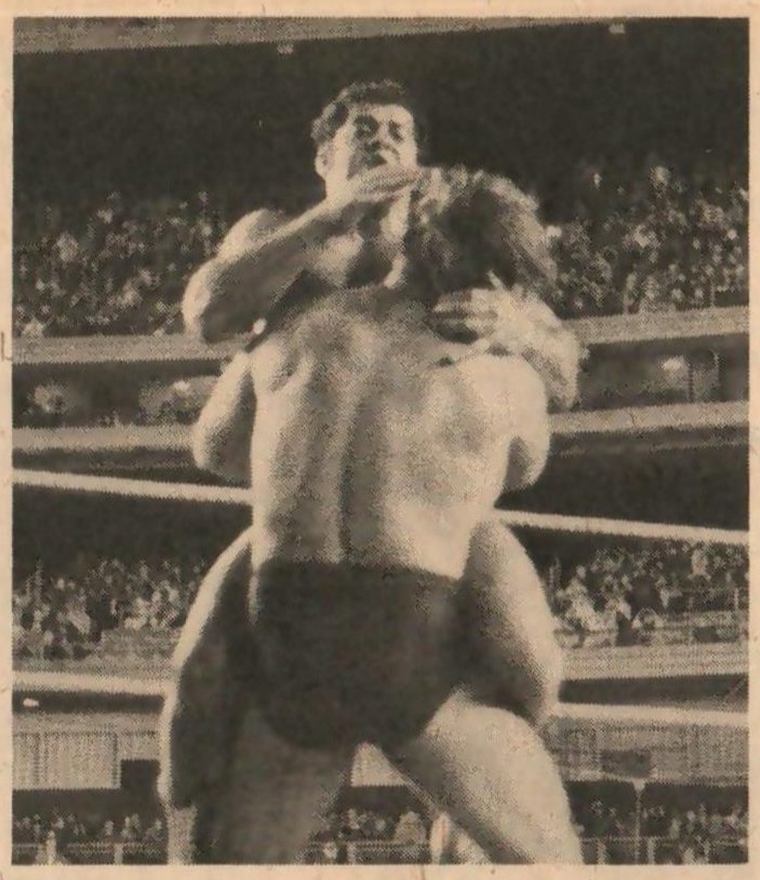
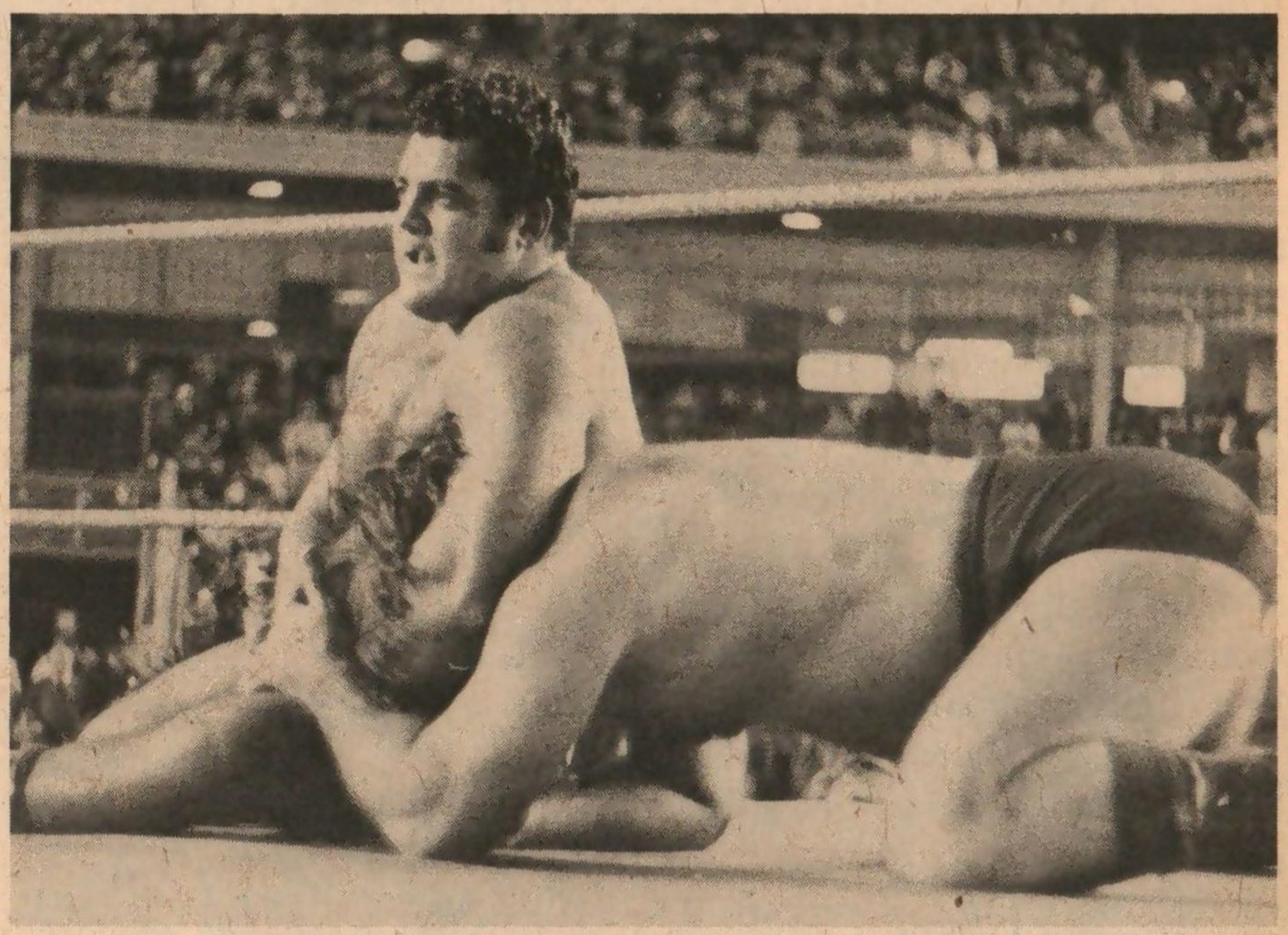
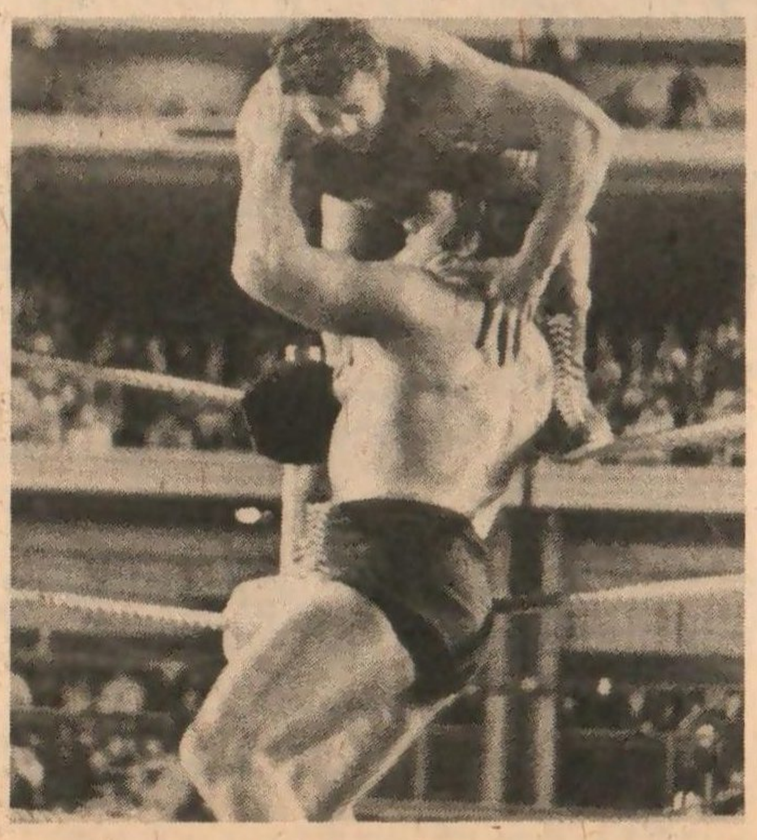
# SAMMARTINO VS. MORALES

(Continued from Page 27)



A brutalizing bearhug seems to bring Sammartino close to victory (above). But Morales was able to survive against Bruno's most lethal assaults. The two greats wrestled to a draw. The match lasted for more than one hour.





Sammartino catches Morales off the top rope (left) and prepares to hurl him half-way across the ring. Morales mounts an offensive with a crunching side headlock while positioned on the mat (above). Morales was the reigning WWF champ entering the match.

out of it.

But not without a harsh price exacted. These were not mediocre men. These were champions. When Sammartino applied a hold, he applied the hold expertly.

In the six years that have elapsed since that fateful evening, there have been several reasons offered for the match's abrupt transition into rulebreaking. Some observers swore that Sammartino was the first to violate the rules. Others insisted it was Morales.

I knew it was inevitable. While these wrestlers were principled, they were also ambitious. And rough. I knew, eventually, they would brawl.

And brawl they did. But not classic brawling, with cheap tricks and foreign objects. No, this featured two men blind with rage and determination, willing to absorb as much punishment as needed to achieve victory.

Sammartino would stagger, seemingly close to defeat, then miraculously draw upon hidden reserves and return to the battle.

A powerful Sammartino forearm would catch Morales around the chest and bounce him off the ropes. With the fans on their feet, Sammartino would try and finish the champion off.

But he couldn't. Pedro would squrim away, shaken but alert.

One hour passed. One hour of furious action. An amazed murmur mixed with the loud shouts from the crowd. How long could this continue?

At one hour and 16 minutes, the law did what neither Pedro Morales nor Bruno Sammartino could do. The match was ended by curfew. A draw.

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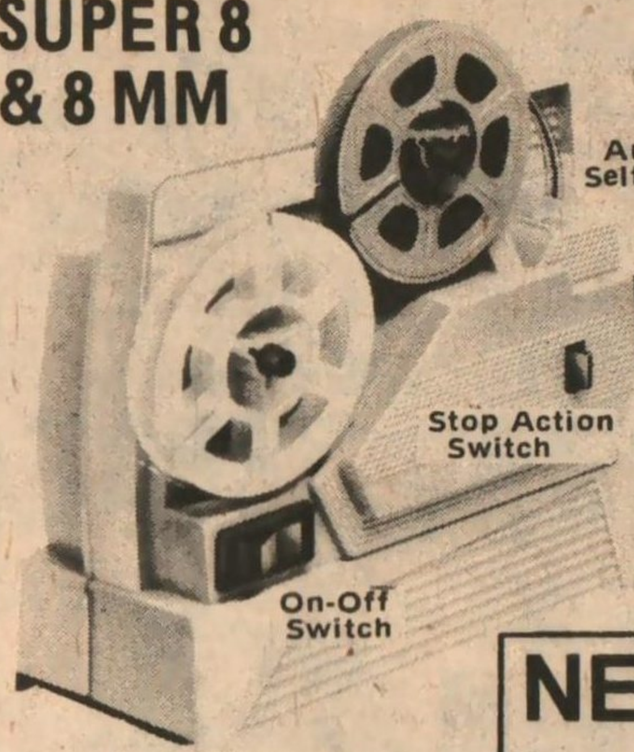

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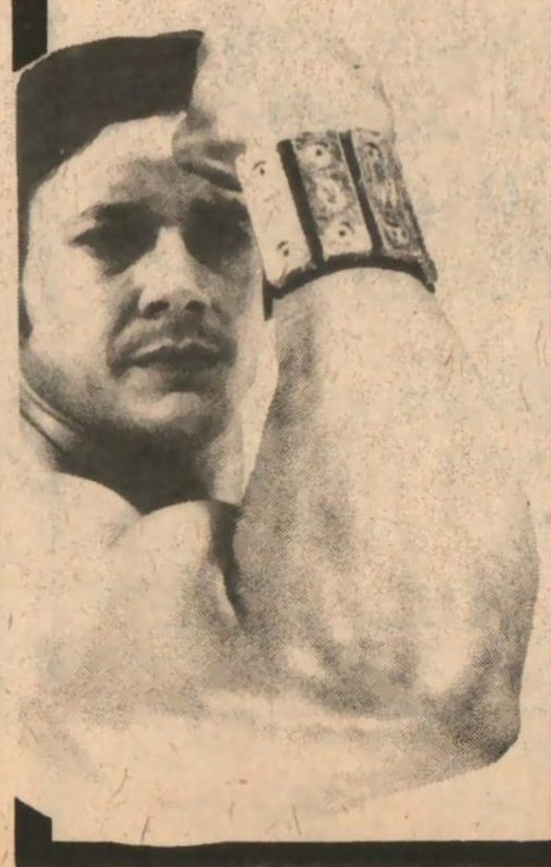

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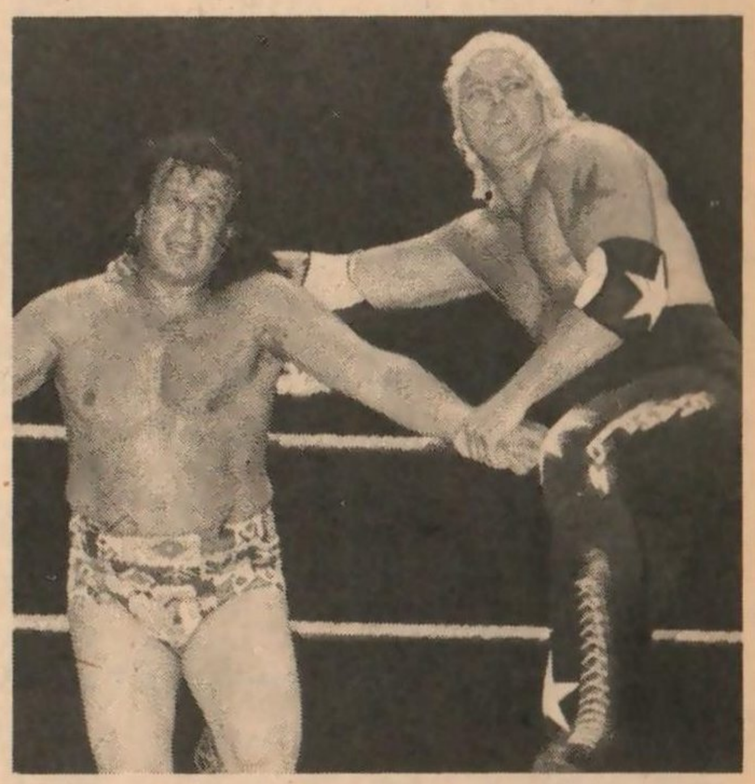
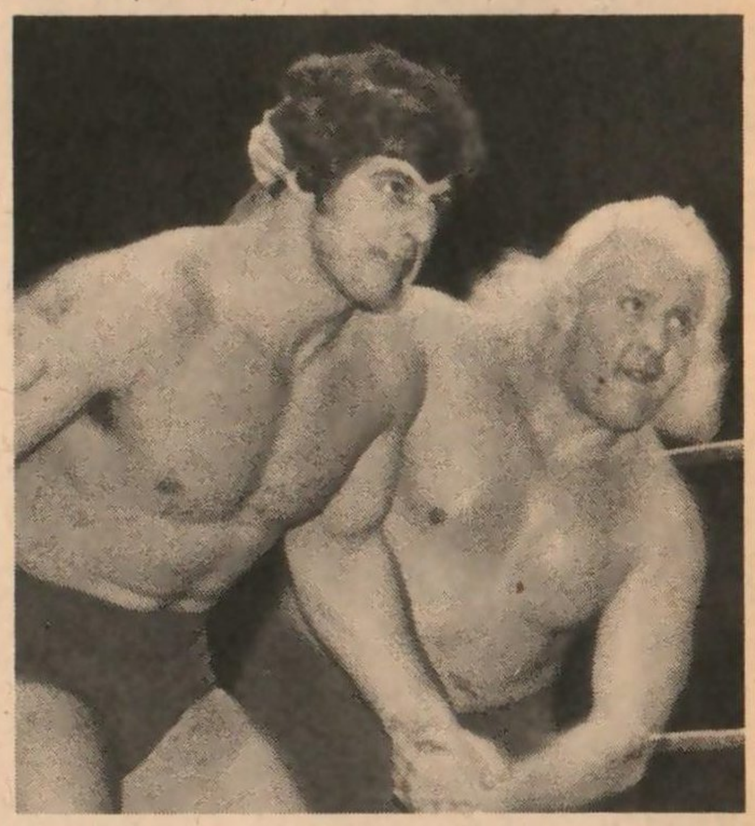
# THE VALIANT BROTHERS

(Continued from Page 29)



Jimmy Valiant tosses former tag team partner Chief Jay Strongbow towards the ropes (above). Johnny Valiant manhandles long-time rival Tony Garea (below).



brother, the Captain gets it. I called my good friend Robert Heenan and asked him how much he wanted for their contracts. I tell you, the price was high. But daddy, it was well worth it."

So the Valiants ventured east again. Many observers felt the brothers had made their first mistake. Some even predicted the Valiants would find the competition so intense, they would leave within one month. They were wrong.

The Valiants were undefeated in the WWF for

nearly two years. They won the WWF title exactly 23 days after returning. Their title reign was one of cruelty, ruthlessness and success.

The list of names of the men they defeated included the greatest stars in wrestling. No team could stop the Valiant Brothers. It was during this time that I realized two truths: I hated the way they wrestled, and they were the best tag team I'd ever seen.

The best. Better than the Kangaroos. Better than the Graham Brothers. Better than Lewin and Curtis. The best.

With Albano's evil strategy guiding them (a strategy which included outside interference when the Valiants were losing), John and Jim held the WWF title in a grasp of iron. Fans doubted whether the Valiants would ever be defeated. One multi-millionaire wrestling fan even offered Albano $500,000 if he would take the team elsewhere, anywhere! "I told that fool we would stay, and then I told him where he could go!" Albano recalled.

The Valiants became the hottest ticket on the East Coast. They appeared on network TV shows. One network even thought about scheduling "The Valiant Brothers Comedy Hour" for the Fall 1976 season. No other tag team ever reached such a level of success.

"We were then, and are now, the best," Jim Valiant said. "With the addition of our third brother, Jerry, we are even better."

I may hate the Valiant Brothers, but I will concede them their due. They are the best. □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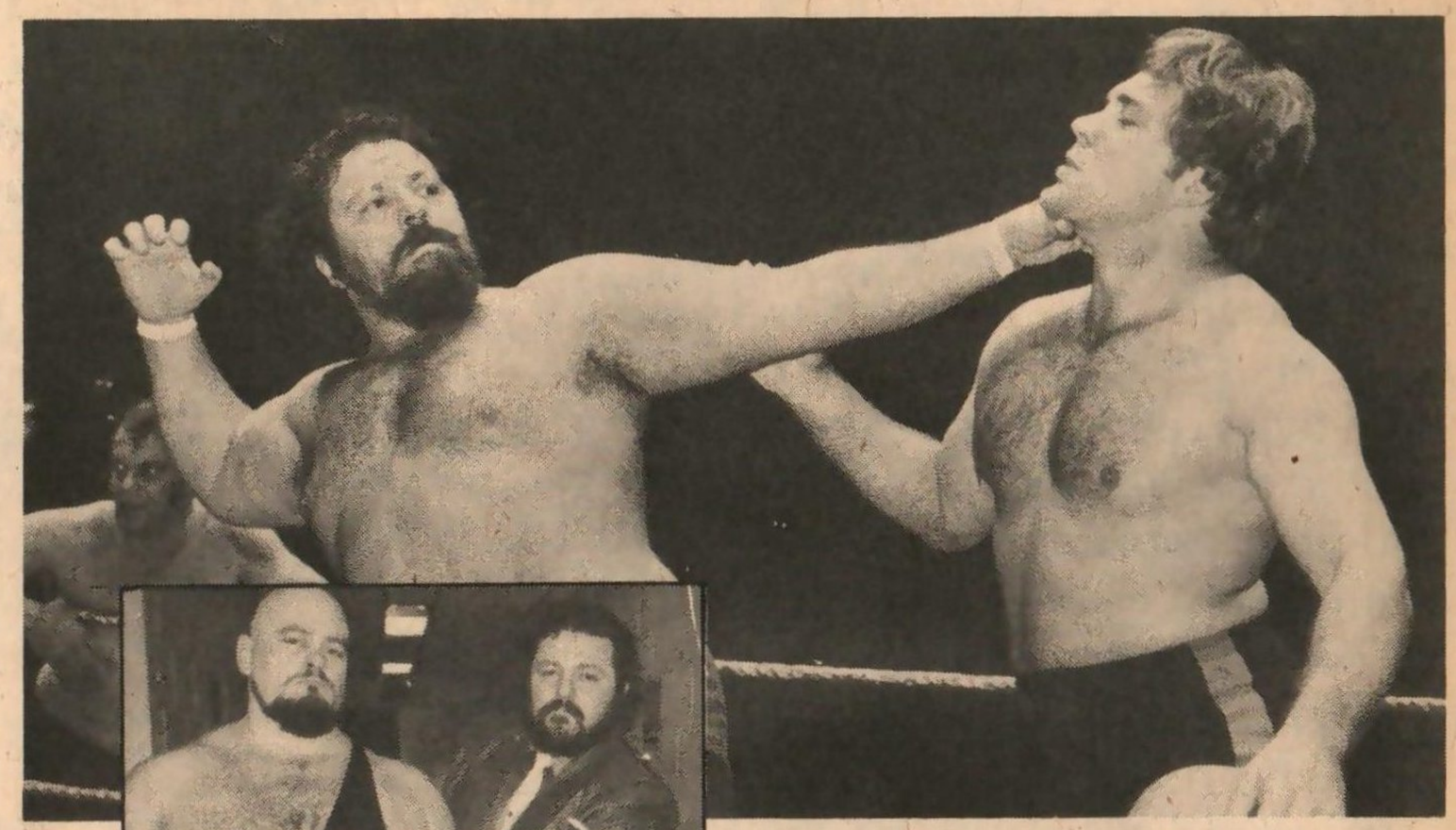
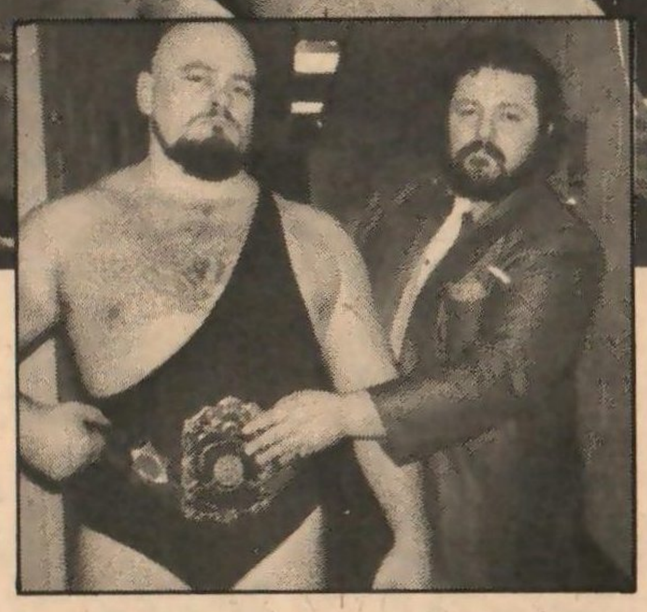
# LOU ALBANO

(Continued from Page 31)





Albano still occasionally dons the old wrestling tights. He winds up to clobber long-time enemy Larry Zbyszko (above). Lou guided Ivan Koloff all the way to the WWF championship (left).

place themselves in their proteges' trunks. This is not fair. The managers expect too much from their wrestlers. Albano does not experience this difficulty. Because he had to strive to be good, he can help his grapplers realize their full potential.

His list of champions is awesome. He has handled some of the great individual stars, such as Bulldog Brower, George Steele, Crusher Verdu, Bugsy McGraw, and Ken Patera. But his true talents lie in handling the touchy task of directing tag teams. *Eight* of the Captain's teams have won world championships! The original Albano champs were Tarzan Tyler and Luke Graham. Several great teams followed. Baron Scicluna and King Curtis. The Mongols. The Blackjacks (Lanza and Mulligan). The Executioners. The Lumberjacks. And the brother combination that experts hail as the very best team in history, the Valiant Brothers.

Jerry and John Valiant are current tag team champions of the WWF. This is the second title reign for Albano and the Valiants. Perhaps John Valiant best describes the wrestling genius of his manager.

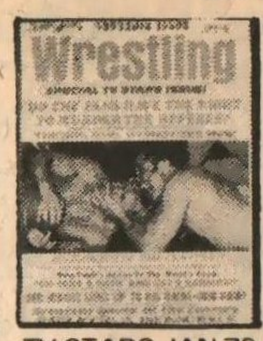
"I know a lot of people question the Captain's tactics," John Valiant began, "but no one questions his success. Wrestling is a competitive sport. For as long as there are winners and losers, Albano will be with the winners. And for as long as the winners are rich and the losers remain poor, Lou will do whatever it takes to make his men winners. It's that simple."

I'm not sure if I like Lou Albano. And I'm sure I don't usually approve of his wrestlers' methods. But one fact is undeniable: The brilliance of his mind is as plain as the Scotch on Matt Brock's breath. □

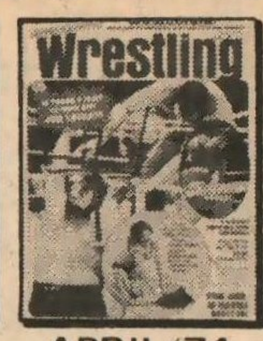
# SPORTS REVIEW Wrestling

## BACK ISSUES

SPEC/OCT 72

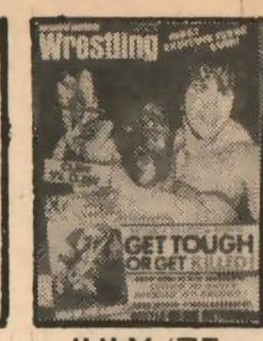

TV STARS JAN 73

DEC/73


APRIL/74

NOV/74

JAN/75



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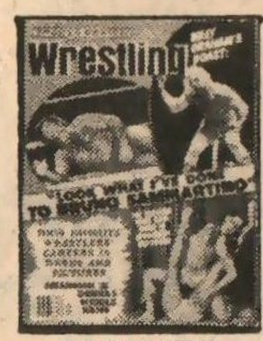
NOV/75

JAN/76

MARCH/76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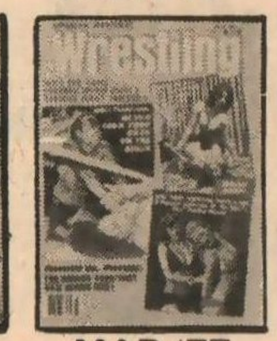
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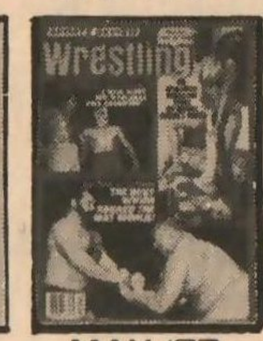
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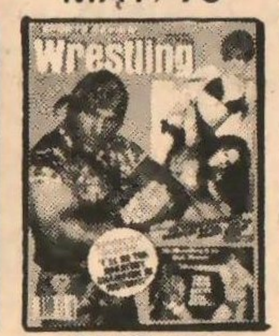
JULY/77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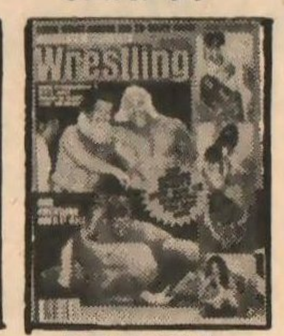
NOV/77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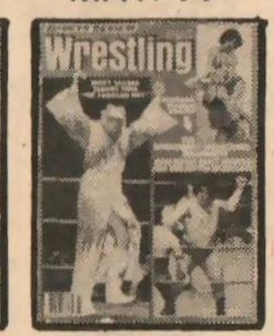
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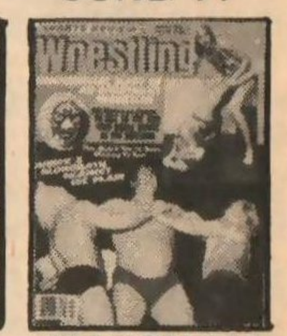
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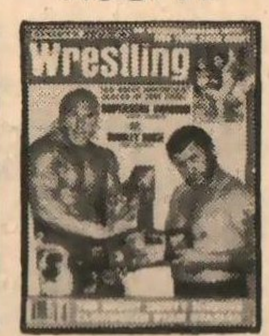
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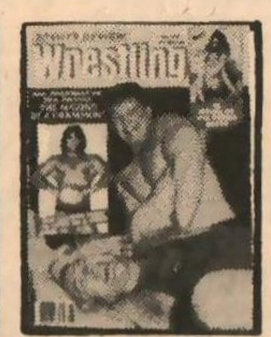
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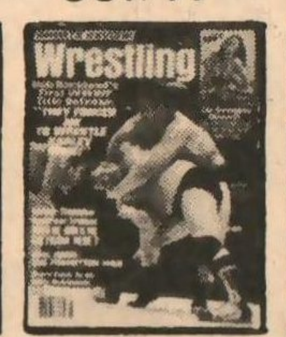
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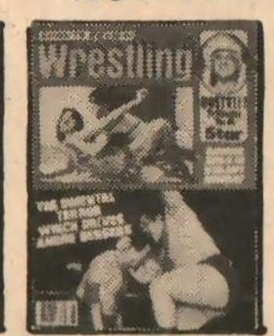
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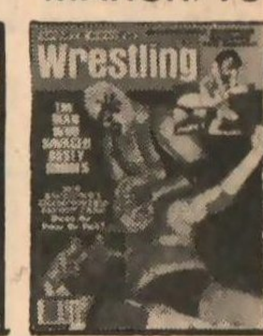
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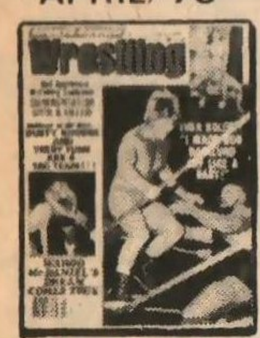
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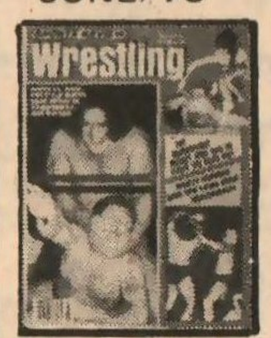
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- ☐ JAN/75
- ☐ JULY/75
- ☐ NOV/75
- ☐ JAN/76
- ☐ MARCH/76
- ☐ MAY/76
- ☐ JULY/76
- ☐ SEPT/76
- ☐ JAN/77
- ☐ MAR/77
- ☐ MAY/77
- ☐ JUNE/77
- ☐ JULY/77
- ☐ AUG/77
- ☐ OCT/77
- ☐ NOV/77
- ☐ DEC/77
- ☐ JAN/78
- ☐ FEB/78
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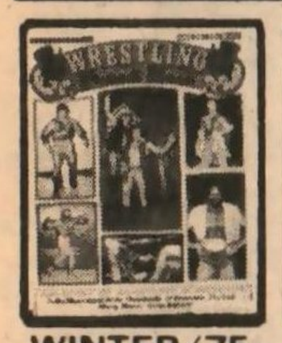
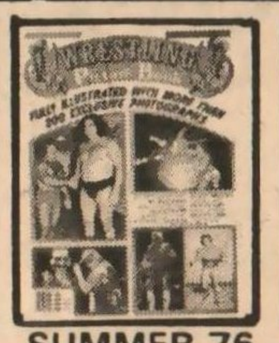

WINTER/75

SPRING 76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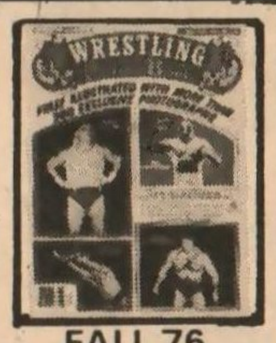
FALL 76

WINTER 76

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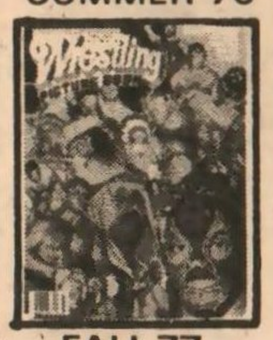
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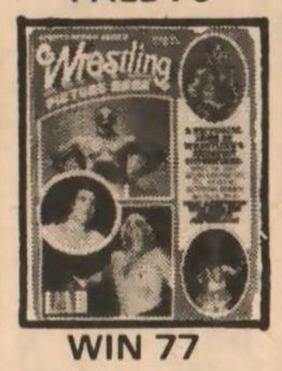
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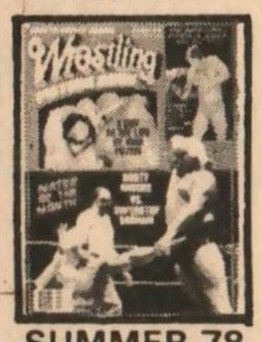
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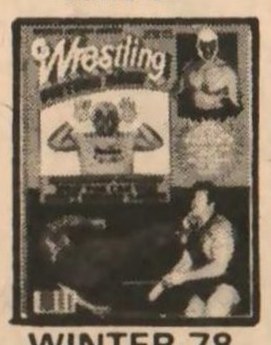
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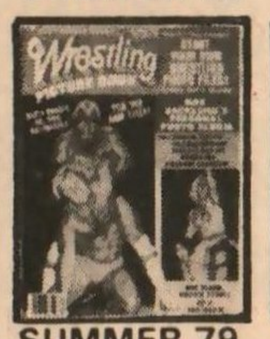
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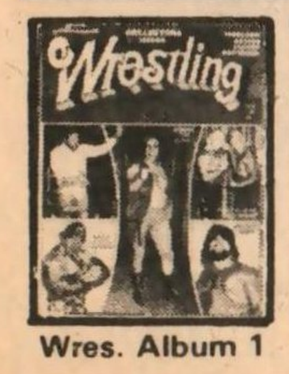
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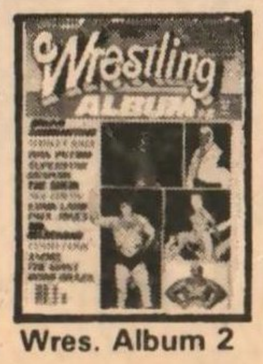
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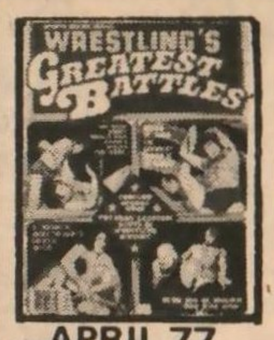
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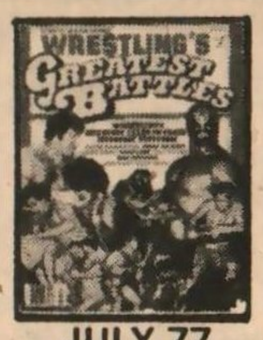
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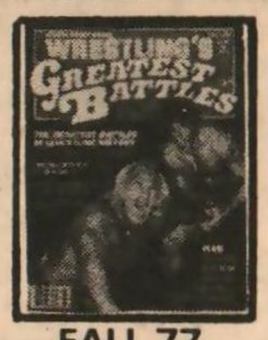
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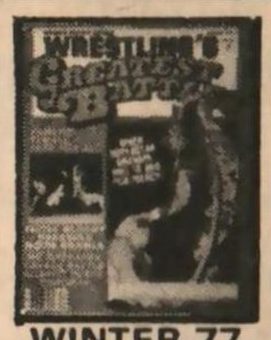
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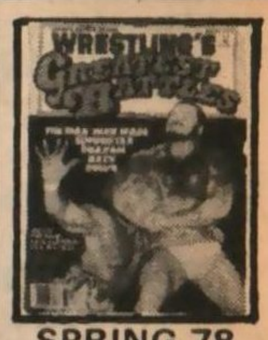
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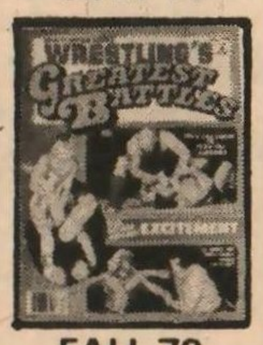
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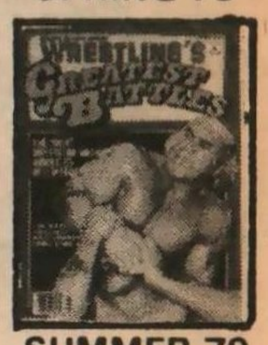
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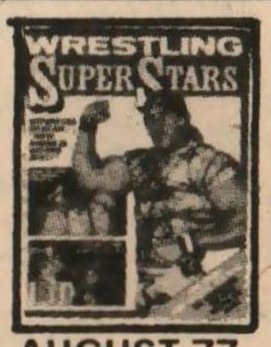
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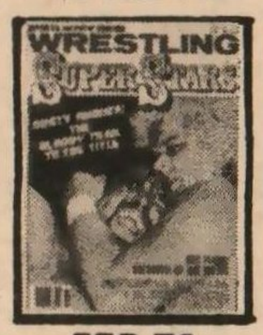
OCT 77

DEC 77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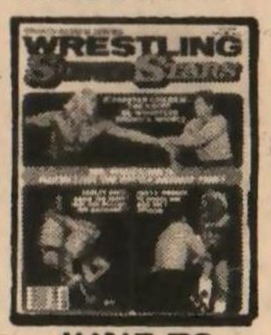
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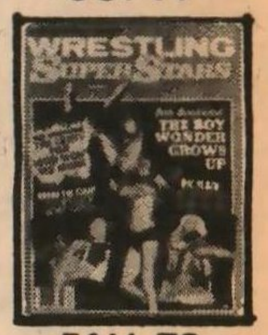
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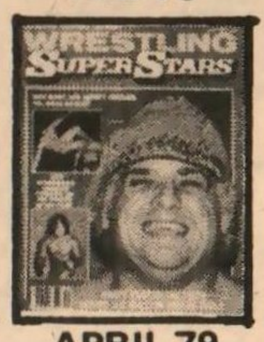
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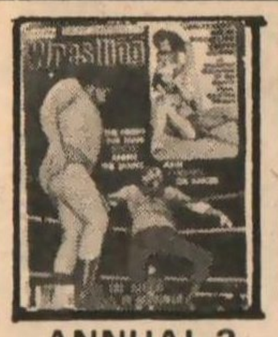
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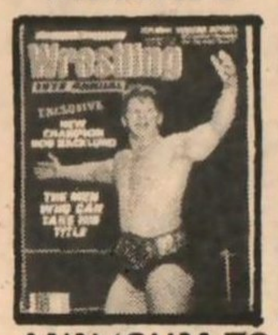
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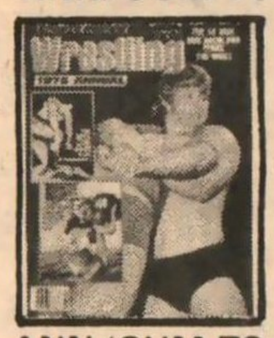
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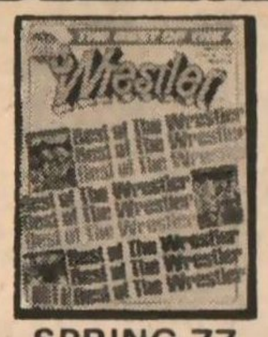
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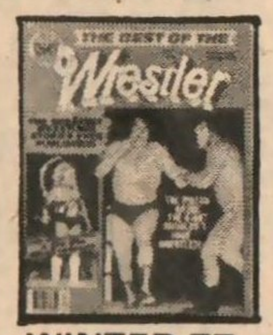
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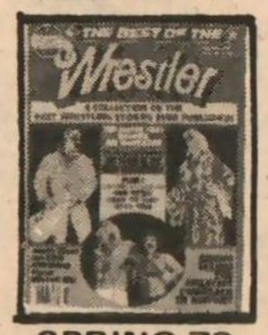
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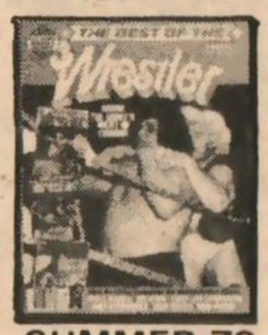
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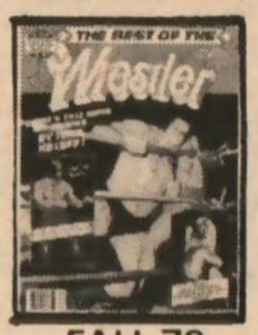
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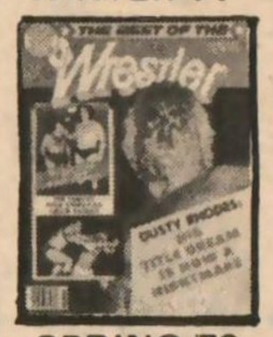
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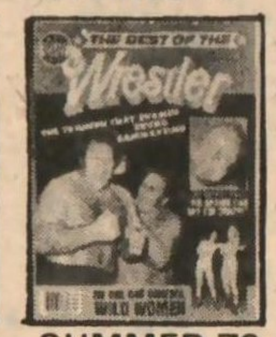
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- ☐ Picture Book/Sum 78
- ☐ Picture Book/Fall 78
- ☐ Picture Book/Win 78
- ☐ Picture Book/Spr 79
- ☐ Picture Book/Sum 79

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- ☐ Wrestling Album 2

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- ☐ Great Battles/Apr 77
- ☐ Great Battles/July 77
- ☐ Great Battles/Fall 77
- ☐ Great Battles/Win 77
- ☐ Great Battles/Spr 78
- ☐ Great Battles/Sum 78
- ☐ Great Battles/Fall 78
- ☐ Great Battles/Win 78
- ☐ Great Battles/Spr 79
- ☐ Great Battles/Sum 79

### SUPERSTARS

- ☐ Superstars/Win 76
- ☐ Superstars/Apr 77
- ☐ Superstars/July 77
- ☐ Superstars/Aug 77
- ☐ Superstars/Oct 77
- ☐ Superstars/Dec 77
- ☐ Superstars/Feb 78
- ☐ Superstars/Apr 78
- ☐ Superstars/June 78
- ☐ Superstars/Fall 78
- ☐ Superstars/Win 78
- ☐ Superstars/April 79
- ☐ Superstars/Oct 79

### ANNUALS

- ☐ ANNUAL 1
- ☐ ANNUAL 2
- ☐ ANNUAL 4
- ☐ ANNUAL/Fall 77
- ☐ ANNUAL/Spr 78
- ☐ ANNUAL/Sum 78
- ☐ ANNUAL/Fall 78
- ☐ ANNUAL/Win 78
- ☐ ANNUAL/Spr 79
- ☐ ANNUAL/Sum 79

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- ☐ Best of Wres/Fall 77
- ☐ Best of Wres/Win 77
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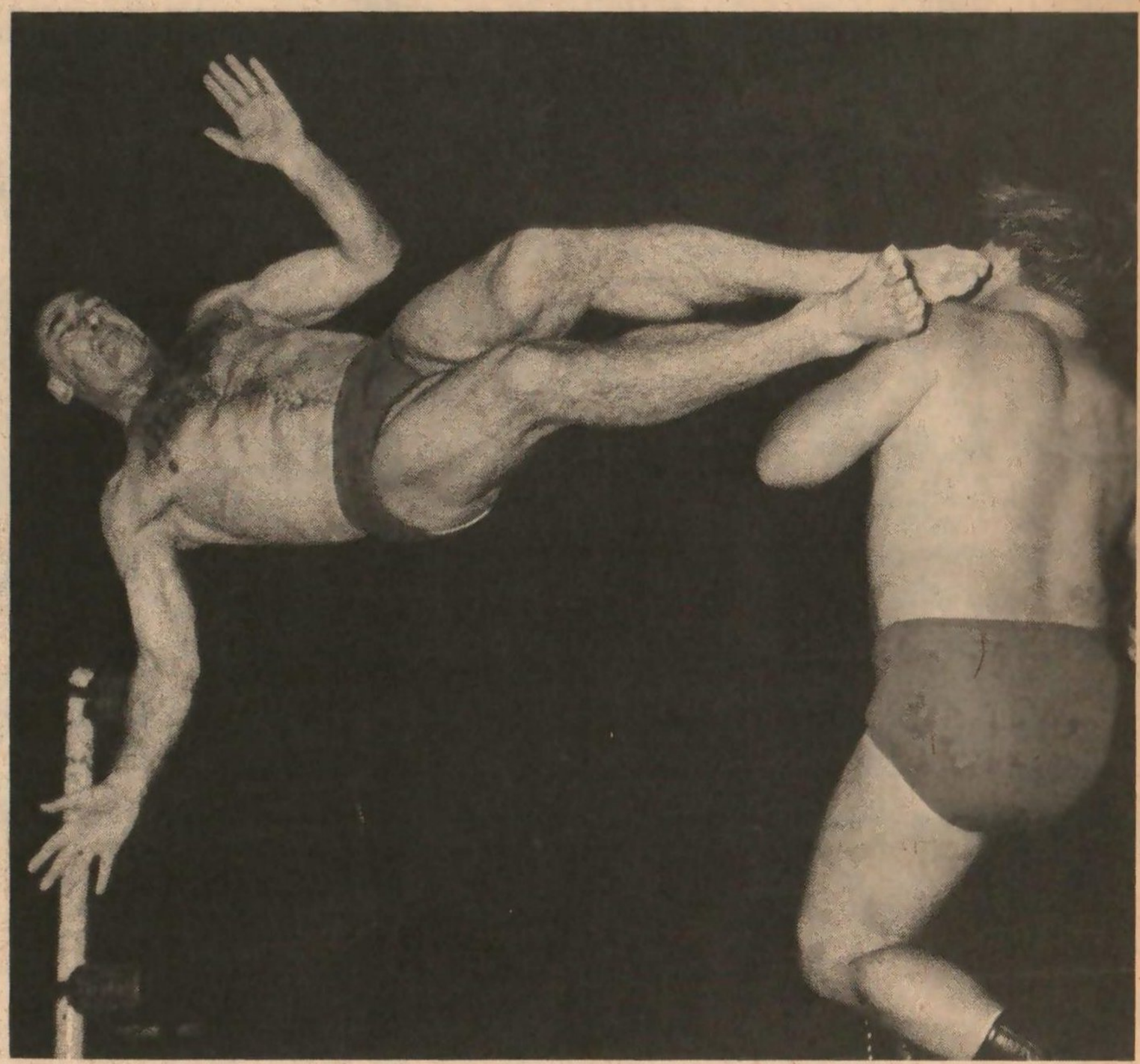
# ANTONINO ROCCA

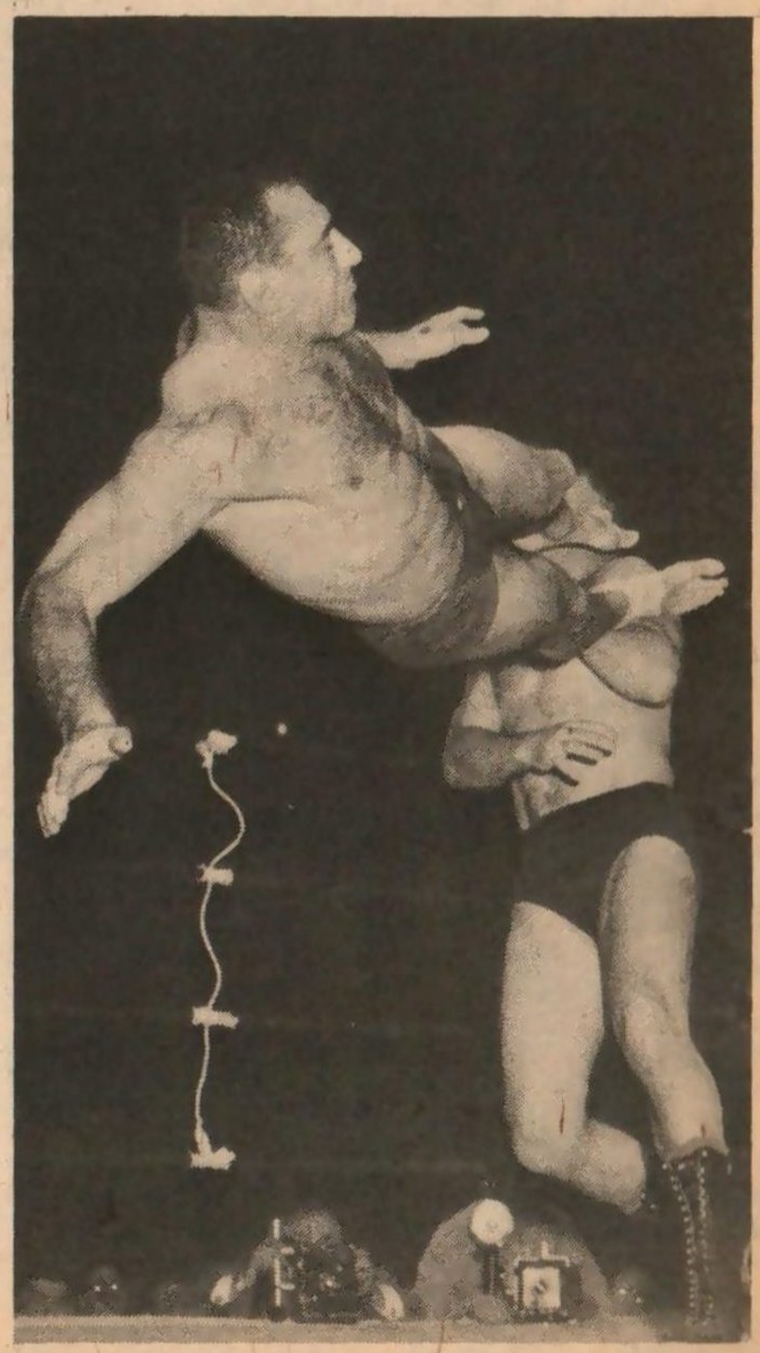
*(Continued from Page 33)*

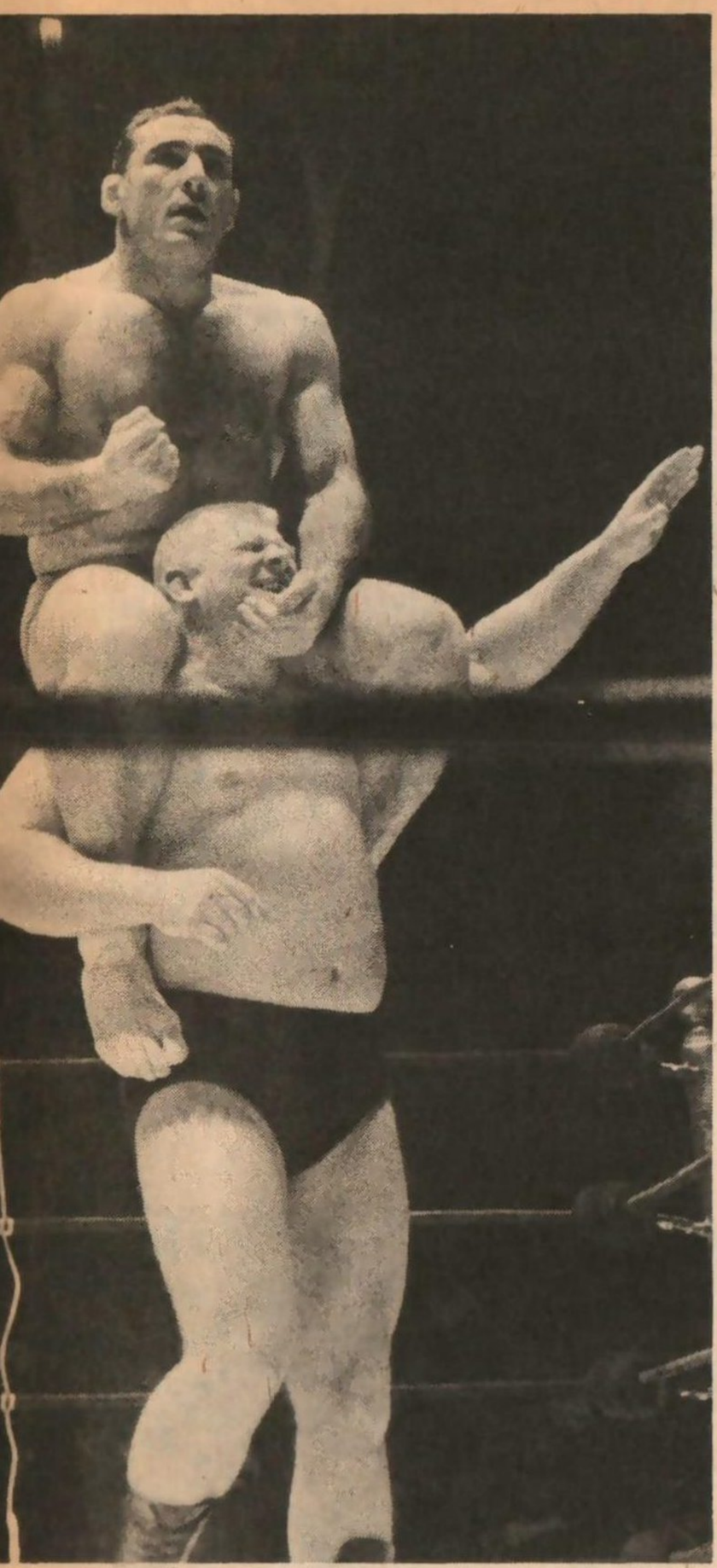


The most devastating dropkick in wrestling history lands on the chin of Danny McShane (above). Another classic dropkick catches Hans Schmidt (below). Rocca had a magic appeal that brought him the love and admiration of countless fans and wrestlers alike. He will never be forgotten.

prize. He won regional titles, tag team matches (most notably the U.S. title with Miguel Perez), but never the world title.

I had the opportunity to meet Rocca at New York's now demolished Sunnyside Garden. I used to hang around to get autographs. Rocca got to know my face after awhile. "You have my autograph six times," he once told me as he was about to sign the seventh. I smiled because I knew he would never turn me down. He was that kind of guy. As a matter of fact, Rocca was so humble, he took the bus to his New York matches, just so he could mingle with his fans!





Despite his high perch, Rocca is in total control against rulebreaker Crusher Lisowski. Few grapplers drew more fan response than the great Rocca.

Rocca finally slowed down, retiring in the late '60s. He made several comebacks, until a few weeks before his death on March 15, 1977. Rocca was also the co-host of the popular "Championship Wrestling" television program originating from Philadelphia.

I can never forget him. He did indeed bring greatness to the squared circle. There has never been anyone quite like Antonino Rocca in professional wrestling. I doubt there ever will be. □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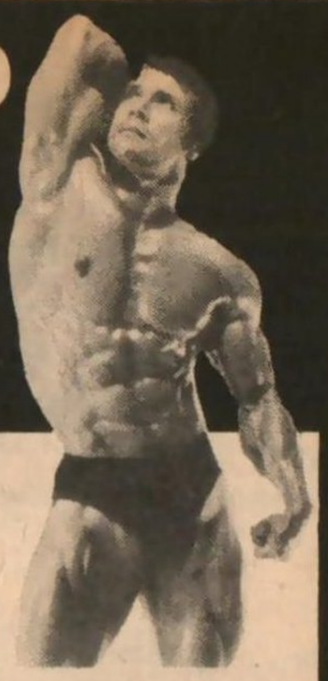

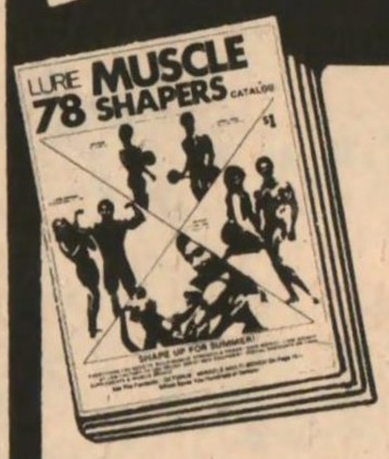


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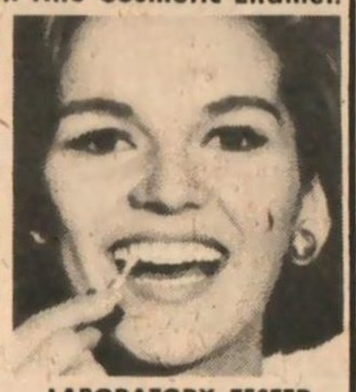

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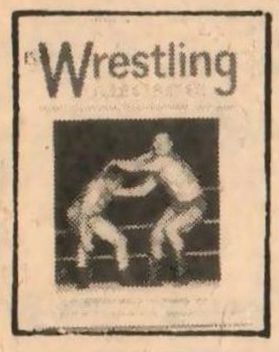


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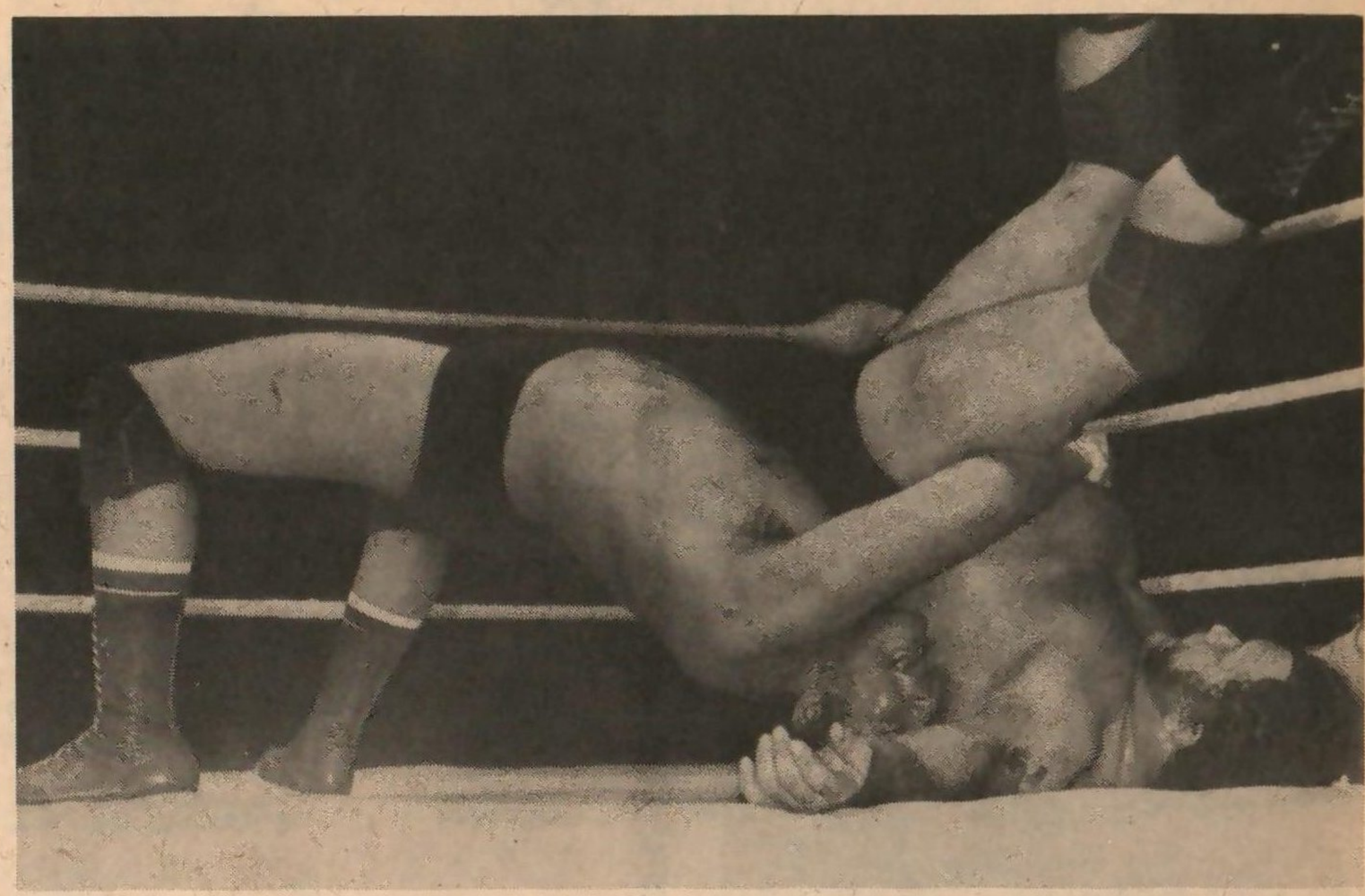
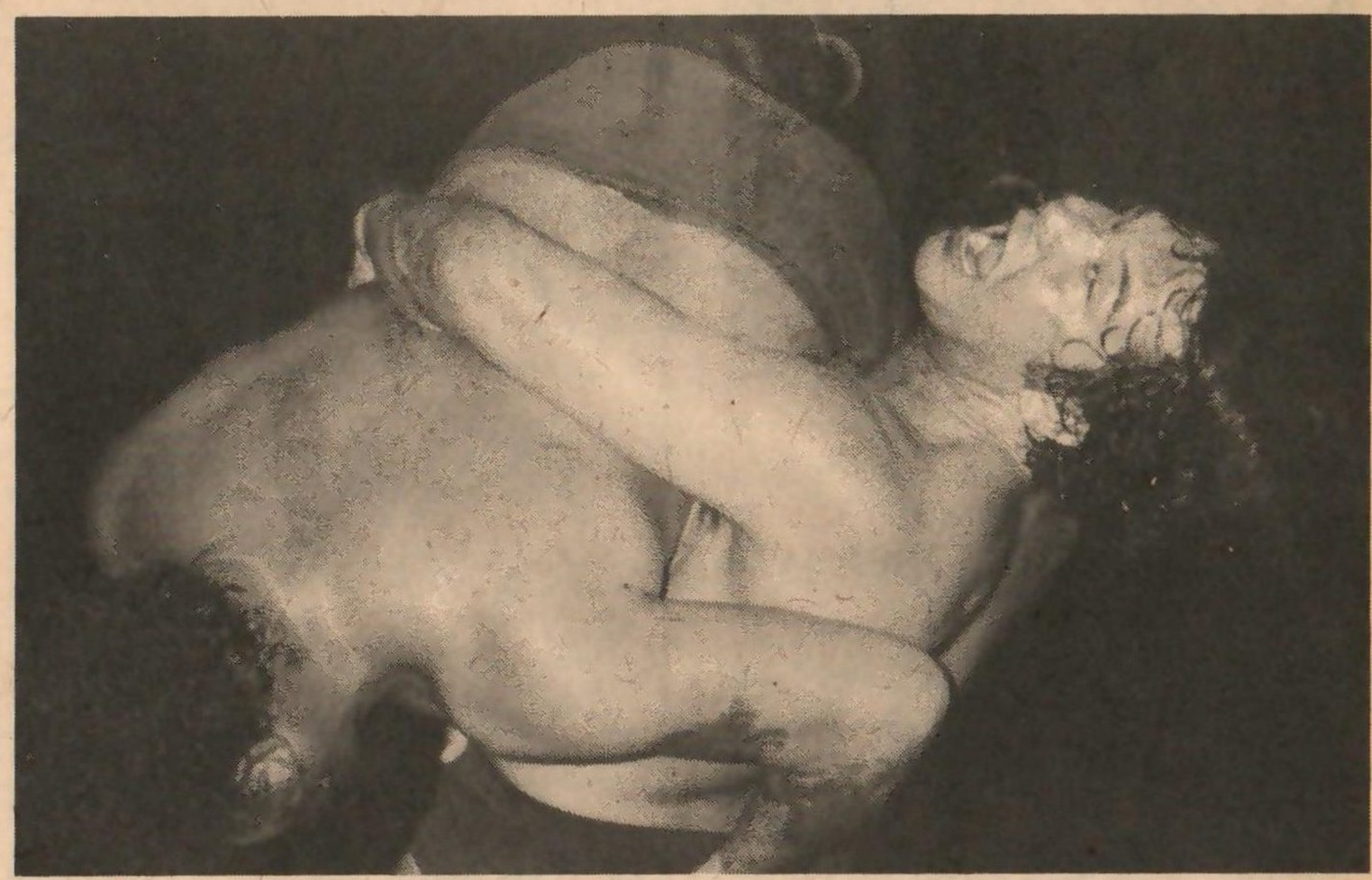
# HARLEY RACE VS. TED DiBIASE

(Continued from Page 42)



Stretching his lithe legs, DiBiase tries to bridge his way to a winning pin (above). DiBiase exhibits his strength by lifting the rugged Race off the mat (below). DiBiase is the only man to have recently pinned Race.



"Kid was scared to death," Race said.

If DiBiase was, he never showed it. Disregarding Race's taunts and powerful holds, DiBiase stuck to his battle plan.

"Wear him down and out-think him," said DiBiase.

For a while, DiBiase's thoughtful strategy seemed to bring him to the edge of astonishing success. Several times, Race shouted in pained confusion. Several times, Harley's suffocating maneuvers were disarmed by DiBiase's lithe movements.

For a moment, Ted DiBiaise sniffed triumph. Then an unfamiliar rule reached out from the book, tripped him up, and robbed him of glory.

DiBiase threw Race over the top rope. Under the WWF rules, Race's count-out would have signaled victory for the youngster. Unfortunately, *NWA* rules applied and DiBiase was disqualified.

Self-pity is not for DiBiase.

"Well, maybe next year," he said with a smile and a shrug. ☐

# IVAN PUTSKI:

(Continued from Page 45)

strength, Putski swiftly overwhelmed the startled Rivera.

"What's he got against me?" wailed Rivera.

Another bout, this time against Spiros Arion, evidenced Putski's blind rage. For the first few minutes, Putski was able to restrain himself.

Abruptly, his anger, like a volcanic fluid coursing through his walls of decency, erupted.

"The word 'traitor' kept pummeling my mind," mumbled Putski.

Ken Patera lifts Ivan Putski high into the air and on top of the turnbuckle. Patera was originally a scientific star. He is now a brutal rulebreaker.

Words may have pummeled Putski, but he pummeled Arion.

"Putski is a rulebreaker," yelled Arion after the whipping.

The toll this holy war has exacted on Putski is startling. His normally rugged, handsome features are worn and seamed with fatigue and frustration. Still, the fervor burns in his large, sincere eyes.

"They must pay," Putski said. □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**SO EFFECTIVE— IT'S ALMOST *TOO GOOD* TO BE TRUE!**

Do not confuse "KIYOGA—The Steel Cobra"™ with any self-protection device or weapon you have ever seen, read or heard about BECAUSE IT'S A *NEW* INVENTION! In action, "KIYOGA — The Steel Cobra"™ is *SO EFFECTIVE.* it has been granted United States PATENT No. 3,554,546,one of the MOST VALUABLE PATENTS of it's kind EVER Officially Issued by the GOVERNMENT Of The UNITED STATES!

**A THUNDERBOLT OF LIFESAVING POWER AT YOUR COMMAND**

"Kiyoga—The Steel Cobra"™ is AN AUTOMATIC, *MAGNETICALLY-TRIGGERED* STEEL WHIP that is armed with a heavy caliber STRIKING TIP! When every second COUNTS, this INSTANT ACTION feature FREES YOU from the need to first locate a pushbutton trigger in order to fire it at your attacker! Because it "goes off" by human REFLEX-ACTION ALONE, it ALWAYS WORKS when needed! Only 7¼" when closed it is completely HIDDEN by your hand! No one can know that YOU ARE SECRETLY ARMED TO THE TEETH! If you come UNDER ATTACK the high-tension steel-coils INSTANTLY LASH OUT in a surprise COUNTER-ATTACK! Firing from its nesting place inside the barrel, a FULL 17" of TEMPERED STEEL STRIKES DOWN YOUR ASSAILANT with the FORCE of a DEADLY COBRA! Mere FLESH AND BLOOD cannot STAND-UP to the EXCRUCIATING PAIN that follows no matter WHERE the steel coils make contact—even through a LEATHER jacket! A blow directed at the head or jaw of the attacker can easily KNOCK HIM OUT COLD! Best of all, "Kiyoga"™ is SO EASY to handle, it can be SAFELY USED by either MEN or WOMEN of ANY age !

**AMAZING NO-RISK 90-DAY FREE TRIAL!**

Be one of the FIRST to get the FULL-TIME PROTECTION of "KIYOGA—The Steel Cobra"™ without risking *one red cent*! Send only $19.95 plus $2.00 for postage and handling. When you receive it, test it on a phone book and count the number of pages DENTED RIGHT THROUGH THE COVER! You can easily penetrate SIXTY PAGES! And because "KIYOGA—The Steel Cobra"™ is precision-machined like a fine gun, and so STURDY, it will last a LIFETIME! Best OF ALL, it is entirely self-contained and uses NO cartridges, gas or electricity, so you WILL NEVER BUY bullets, reloads, batteries or anything else—EVER! When you curl your fingers around "KIYOGA'S"™ sure-grip crackle finish and feel the "heft" and blazing ACTION right at your fingertips, you'll KNOW that here AT LAST is the PROTECTOR that you have always prayed for—for yourself and your loved ones! UNCONDITIONALLY GUARANTEED to live up to EVERY CLAIM in this ad, you *MUST* be completely satisfied or send it back after using it for 90 DAYS, for a FULL REFUND—no questions asked!

**FREE TRIAL COUPON**

**E.S.P. VIDEO CORP. Dept. 81-GH9**
**200 Fifth Avenue—New York, N.Y. 10010**

I must have the protection only "Kiyoga"™ can give! Please send me _____ "Kiyoga(s)"™ at $19.95 each plus $2.00 postage and handling. If at ANY TIME during my 90 DAY FREE TRIAL I decide to return it, you GUARANTEE to refund my money immediately!

Paid by: I enclose $_____ for _____ "KIYOGA"(s)™.

☐ Cash ☐ Check ☐ Money Order ☐ C.O.D. ($5 deposit required for C.O.D.)

Name _____ Please Print Clearly

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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**TAKE YOUR CHOICE! You Can Do This...**

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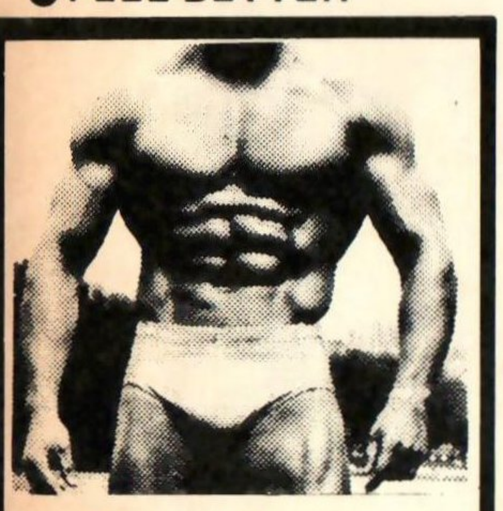
- TRIM YOUR WAIST!
- FEEL BETTER



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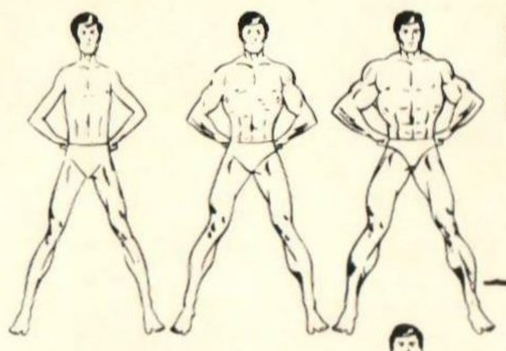

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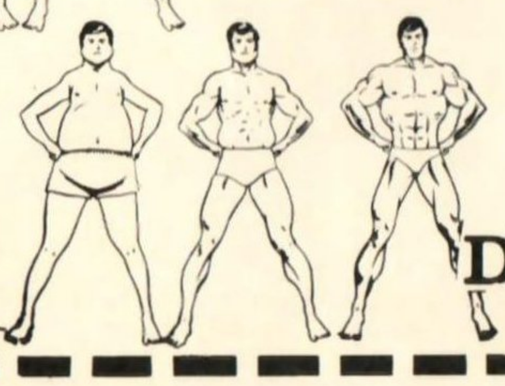
**FAT?** FAT WILL DISAPPEAR – REPLACED BY MUSCLES!



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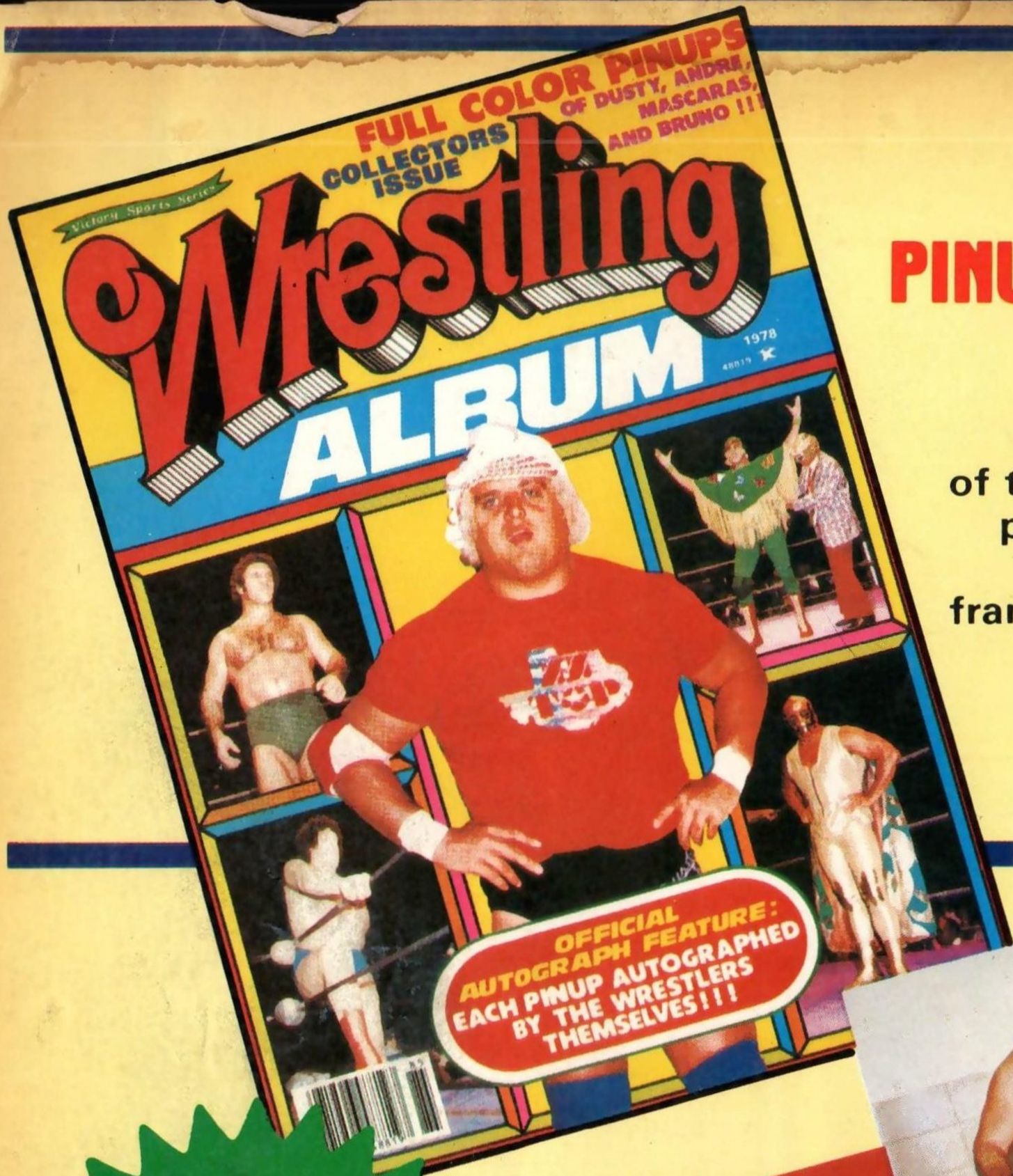


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